

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Cape Hatteras National Seashore



7 of 7

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Notice of Intent to Establish the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Off-Road Vehicle Management

DRAFT
Public Comment Analysis Report

August, 2007

*Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Notice of Intent to Establish the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee
for Off- Road Vehicle Management*

Public Comment Analysis Report

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Introduction and Guide

INTRODUCTION

On June 28, 2007, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the Secretary of the Interior's intent to establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee to negotiate and develop special regulations (proposed rule) for management of off-road vehicles (ORV) at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (park). The NOI invited interested persons to comment on the proposal to create the Committee. The NOI also invited applications or nominations for Committee membership from persons believing that they would be significantly affected by the proposed rule and who believed their interests would not be represented adequately by the proposed Committee members identified in the NOI. Comments were accepted through July 30, 2007. The NOI specified that only correspondence submitted on-line through the National Park Service (NPS) Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website or mailed or hand-carried to the park would be accepted.

THE COMMENT ANALYSIS PROCESS

During the comment period the NPS received 143 pieces of correspondence. Correspondence is the term used to describe the entire document submitted by the commenter. The NPS received correspondence electronically via the PEPC website and in hard-copy at the park. The NPS read and analyzed all correspondence and sorted comments into topics. A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. The range of topics into which comments were sorted was designed to capture all comment content and not restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS received both substantive and non-substantive comments. Substantive comments are those that addressed the proposal to create the Committee or that made an application or nomination for Committee membership. Non-substantive comments are those that did not address the establishment, scope, or membership of the Committee. A number of non-substantive comments did address the general issue of ORV management at the park. This report includes an analysis of both substantive comments and non-substantive comments that addressed ORV management.

Although the analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, this report should be used with caution. Comments from people who chose to respond do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the entire public. Furthermore, this was not a vote-counting process, and the emphasis was on the content of the comment rather than the number of times a comment was received.

GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This report is organized as followed:

Content Analysis Report: This report lists the topics discussed in substantive comments that addressed the proposal to create the Committee or that made an application or nomination for Committee membership, and in non-substantive comments that did not address the establishment, scope, or membership of the Committee, but that did address ORV management. Below each topic are representative quotes, which are quoted directly from the text of the public's comments. Representative quotes were selected for each topic to further clarify, and serve as examples of, the public's comments.

Commenters by Organization Report: This report lists the organizations from which an official representative submitted comments.

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Public Comment Report

SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS

Topic:

Comments support specific nominee(s) to the Committee

Representative Quote:

I support Mr. Patrick Paquette as a Stakeholder Representative on the Committee for the Negotiated Rulemaking, and Mr. Ronald Bounds as his Alternate as a Stakeholder Representative. Both men are well versed on the Environmental Issues and Access Issues that will be discussed and decided by this committee.

Representative Quote:

I also recommend Jim Lyons (president of CHRA) to participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee to develop regulations for off road vehicle (ORV) use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Jim is the perfect candidate for this committee because he is looking at the issues from all angles. He doesn't have an agenda powered by a special interest group. His interest, like mine, is maintaining a balance. He is an avid fisherman who enjoys boating and beach driving. He also knows about finding a quiet place on the beach away from vehicles to walk, or fish, or just enjoy the solitude and the beauty.

Representative Quote:

I support the following individuals representing a more balanced approach to ORV management:

Walker Golder
Sidney Maddock
Robert Milne
Dwight Rettie
Jason Rylander
Andrew Hawley
Destry Jarvis
Leslie Jones
Sam Pearsall
Aaron McCall
Jim Lyons
Steven Kayota

Representative Quote:

I am writing to support the following organizations (individuals) for appointment to the Committee for negotiated Rulemaking. The names and numbers are as they appear in the Federal Register

- 2. Avon Property Owners - Frank Folb
- 20. North Carolina Beach Buggy Association - Jim Keene
- 22. Outer Banks Preservation Association - David Goodwin
- 24. Cape Hatteras Recreational Alliance - Jim Lyons
- 26. American Sportfishing Association - Bob Eakes
- 27. Cape Hatteras Anglers Club - Larry Hardham
- 28. Recreational Fishing Alliance - Patrick Paquette

Topic:

Comments object to specific nominee(s) to the Committee

Representative Quote:

The following individuals have strong connections to ORV groups... I object to the following individuals being on the committee:

C.A. Duke
Frank Folb
Pat Weston
Roy Kingery
Jeffrey Wells
Michael Peele
William Foster
Warren Judge
Ray Sturza
Wayne Mathis
Sara Winslow
Judy Swartwood
Stacy Stacks
Scott Legget
Sam Hagedon
David Goodwin
John Alley
Bob Eakes
Caarol Forthman
Larry Hardham
Robert Davis
Patrick Paquette
Ronald Bounds
Carolyn McCormick
Renee Cahoon

Representative Quote:

I DO NOT SUPPORT the following appointments:

- 8. Defenders of Wildlife - Jason Rylander
- 25. Water Sports Industry Association - Trip Foreman

Topic:

Comments propose new member(s) or alternate(s) to the Committee

Representative Quote:

the American sportfishing Association (ASA) is listed as a member represented by Mr. Bob Eakes. Ms. Carol Forthman is listed as the alternate member for ASA; however, she is no longer with ASA. I kindly request that the list of members be changed to reflect that Ms. Patricia Doerr, ASA Director of Ocean Resource Policy, be listed as the alternate member for ASA. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Patricia A. Doerr

Representative Quote:

I urge the NPS and Department of Interior to allow for full representation in this process and appoint both myself and Dr. Steve Kayota as representatives of significant stakeholders, the NON RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS. Please review my credentials again and the skills and abilities along with the experience in these types of processes. I know I can be a very important part of the process and ask only for open consideration. Dr. Kayota is also an excellent advocate for this group and deserves your fullest consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Wells

Representative Quote:

If my current alternate Steve Kayota's group is given a seat, something I whole heartily support, I would like to nominate Burnie Gould to be my alternate. Mr. Gould has actively participated in both of the Reg/neg sessions. He is a resident of both Southern Shores and Frisco. He is a member of CHRA and active in a number of civic organizations. He has agreed to accept this position...

Sincerely,
Jim Lyons

Representative Quote:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there needs to be a change in our alternate seat. Stacy Stacks is unable to continue as the alternate and has nominated David Goodwin to replace her. He has accepted this opportunity to serve as the alternate for Cape Hatteras Business Allies and we are confident that he can represent the business community's interests...

Thank you,
Judy Swartwood

Representative Quote:

If the Eastern Surfing Association members on Hatteras Island are not available to participate, obtain other representation. Hatteras Island is a premier surfing destination on the East Coast... Please consider again the request to join by the Surfrider Foundation, which clearly has an established organization and focus to promote environmentally sound practices while promoting

water sports.

Representative Quote:

I would like to submit the name of Mr. Lee Wrenn to serve as the alternate to Warren Judge, Dare County Commissioner seat to the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee, for the ORV plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Your attention to this request, will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Warren Judge

Representative Quote:

Please consider this our recommended appointment and comment regarding the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. The Hyde County Commissioners agreed to replace Kevin Howard with Eugene S. Ballance as our alternate member to represent Hyde County. Please see the attached application.

Sincerely,
Carl Classen
Interim County Manager

Representative Quote:

Dr. Kayota suggested that I submit my application for an alternate seat at the neg/reg table, as his substitute representative for Hatteras Island Homeowners Coalition. I am a center of information and an organizer of the coalition, and I have members' support

Sincerely,
Vincenzo Sanguineti MD

Topic:

Comments state that the Committee will adequately represent the commenter's interests

Representative Quote:

As a member of a few organizations that support OSV access to the beaches, I feel as if I will adequately be represented as the proceedings go forward.

Topic:

Comments state that the Committee membership is not balanced and favors pro-ORV interests

Representative Quote:

Seven of the proposed organizations represent a pro ORV stance. Nine other organizations have representatives who are active, dues paying members of ORV user groups. The bias is obvious. Many of these proposed representatives have made statements at public meetings that indicate a pronounced bias toward more ORV use and completely rejecting any limits or restrictions on ORV use. The public deserves to have better representation instead of a rigged process.

Topic:

Comments state that non-resident property owners are unrepresented on the Committee

Representative Quote:

As a non-resident property owner in the village of Hatteras, NC ... I am extremely concerned that the process is omitting our representation and feel that a fair and balanced voice is not being heard from a significantly impacted group.

Topic:

Comments support creation of a Committee seat for non-resident property owners

Representative Quote:

As an owner of a Hatteras Island beachfront home, I strongly urge the Negotiated Rule-making Advisory Committee to use a participatory process that includes both representation of homeowners' associations on the island and also non-resident property owners. The conclusions of the Committee must consider the concerns and issues of all stakeholder groups or the negotiated rulemaking is not the fair or credible process it claims to be. This Committee must include both resident and non-resident homeowners who are potentially impacted by the upcoming rules on vehicle access to the beaches. We believe it is unfair and discriminatory to non-resident property owners to be denied even a single full seat among the 27 seats being filled.

Topic:

Comments state that property renters are unrepresented on the Committee

Representative Quote:

There is no representation for the huge population that rent homes for a temporary period to enjoy the beauty and natural state of this most special island. I maintain a guest book at my rental home and have for the past 9 years. I estimate that during that time approximately 2,500 people have stayed in my home...I believe the large numbers of property renters need a voice. What they have to say is critical to this process.

Topic:

Comments question the willingness of Committee members to negotiate and reach consensus

Representative Quote:

We need open-minded and thoughtful members to help determine policy. Those candidates who are biased, who are argumentative and unwilling to look at reaching consensus, don't have a place on this committee. This appears to be the majority of the committee's makeup.

Topic:

Comments urge the Committee to consider safety issues during negotiations

Representative Quote:

the Committee must thoroughly and transparently consider public safety, and develop recommendations that mitigate safety risks to the public to an acceptable level. We believe that a full assessment of these safety issues must include the views and concerns of both resident and non-resident homeowners participating on the Committee.

Topic:

Comments propose procedures and/or guidelines for the Committee

Representative Quote:

The Committee should establish a set of key milestones for assessing the Committee's progress and determining if the process is meeting the interests of the participants and, if not, for ending the process or replacing members even if the Committee has not completed its work. This approach can ensure clarity on the process and provide opportunities to improve how the Committee is working together.

Because of the group diversity, advice of the committee should be by a consensus vote.

NON-SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS THAT DID NOT ADDRESS THE ESTABLISHMENT, SCOPE, OR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT DID ADDRESS ORV MANAGEMENT

Topic:

Comments oppose eliminating ORV access

Representative Quote:

Please do not close the beaches to ORV's. Do not over regulate something that does not need Over regulation.

Representative Quote:

I feel it would be a shame for vehicle access to the beaches, which has been enjoyed by many over the years by so many, to be taken away

Topic:

Comments support maintaining ORV access

Representative Quote:

I hope everyone will work together to get a reasonable plan in place and keep the beaches open to ORV now and in the future.

Representative Quote:

I firmly believe that Cape Hatteras beaches should remain open for off-road vehicles.

Topic:

Comments oppose maintaining ORV access

Representative Quote:

I have always been disturbed by the presence of vehicles on the beach. I understand that the practice of driving on the Outer Banks beaches is longstanding... That being said, vehicles have no place on National Seashores. I am adamantly opposed to ORV use on all the Hattera Beaches.

Topic:

Comments oppose restricting ORV access

Representative Quote:

I do not think there should be a restriction on beach access by ORV. Beach access by vehicle traffic is the reason I travel to the area.

Topic:

Comments oppose expanding ORV access

Representative Quote:

As a beachfront property owner in Frisco, North Carolina, I am adamantly opposed to the possibility of allowing year round ORV's along the residential beach area on the Outer Banks.

Topic:

Comments support nighttime restrictions on ORV use

Representative Quote:

I believe the beach should be closed every day from Midnight to 1 hour before sunrise every day of the year. There are too many people spending the night on the beach. Campers are lining up and hogging the spots for weeks at a time.

Topic:

Comments support and/or propose details for a permitting or fee system to regulate ORV access

Representative Quote:

maybe a vehicle beach fee can be implemented... I am willing to spend \$10.00 per week for an out of state visitor's beach driving permit. If this is what it takes to keep the beaches open to ORV, then I am willing to pay for it. If visitors can afford a rental home. they can afford a beach permit.

Representative Quote:

I am all for an ORV license to drive the beaches of CAHA. Delaware already has this in place and it helps keep things a little more in order... I also like having the ORV license tied to the Vin# and Drivers license so abuses can lead to banishment from this privilege.

Representative Quote:

This permit would be issued for a fee and also, and more importantly, would only be issued upon completing a tutorial and test on the proper beach driving vehicular use; including all rules, regulations, suggestions, vehicle requirements, etiquette, fines, etc; for beach driving and beach use at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches.

The tutorial, test and fee collection could easily be set up online so that anyone could have access to it.

A windshield sticker permit would be mailed upon completion. A printed receipt could serve as the permit until the windshield permit was mailed and received. A few kiosks or permit offices could be set up at various places on the Outer Banks to accommodate on-the-spot testing and permits.

I myself would gladly pay an annual fee of \$100 or more for the privilege of driving on the beaches, apparticularly if I knew the fees were going to go to help preserve the beaches' environments.

Topic:

Comments support and/or propose required equipment be carried by ORV users

Representative Quote:

To drive on the beach each vehicle needs have tire pressure lowered, carry a chain or strap for towing and a shovel, no exceptions.

Topic:

Comments support the designation of pedestrian-only beaches

Representative Quote:

I strongly favor restriction of beach driving year-round in front of the villages where kids/pedestrians play. The beaches in front of Frisco and Hatteras villages should continue to be pedestrian beaches only, as has been the case of over 30 years.

Representative Quote:

We support permanent, year-round, conveniently-placed, designated pedestrian access areas within the National Seashore at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Topic:

Comments support strict enforcement and/or penalties for ORV violations

Representative Quote:

My recommendation is very stiff penalties and fines for poor driving and damage to dunes and wildlife. These fees should be paid immediately. If this means allowing the driver to exit the beach, then the ranger's taking him to court, so be it. Word will spread fast about zero tolerance and will keep many visitors from breaking the law.

My only suggestion is more park rangers cruising the beach to control the misbehaving visitors.

Topic:

Comments address handicapped permits and/or access for the disabled

Representative Quote:

I would not object to accommodations to the aged or handicapped in the form of low-impact, pick up and drop off beach taxis.

Representative Quote:

Please end the policy of issuing permits allowing handicapped persons to access restricted sections of beach within the villages via vehicles between Memorial Day & Labor Day... This

creates an unacceptable safety issue in a recreational area crowded with lounging adults and small children playing who are not expecting automotive traffic. Additionally, little is known about the ability of the permittees to drive on loose sand.

Topic:

Comments express the value of recreational surf-fishing

Representative Quote:

I have been going to the Outer Banks from Pa. several times a year since 1980. I can not express in any words how lucky I have been to have had this opportunity. My main mission was to do a lot of fishing along with vacation time with family and friends. These times have been unforgettable.

Topic:

Comments express the value of other recreation opportunities

Representative Quote:

I am a native fo North Carolina and my wife and I have enjoyed the natural beauty of Cape Hatteras for about 15 years. It is truly a natural gem that is enjoyed by all types of visitors. The diversity of the people visiting the park adds to its enchanting beauty. The multiple uses available to everyone visiting make this park one of a kind. It truly has something for everyone, the surfer, sun bather, fisherman, kite surfer, bird watcher or horse rider.

Topic:

Comments address the potential impacts of ORV management on socioeconomics

Representative Quote:

Changes in beach access will have a direct economical impact on other regional economies as well. For example my parents own a beach house in Avon which they rent to tourists for many months of the year. The demand for renting vacation houses on Hatteras Island will significantly decrease if limits are imposed on off road vehicle beach access.

Representative Quote:

I do know that if the beaches are closed that the economy of this island will suffer great consequences. I know that the many friends, family and other people that I have told about Hatteras Island will not be coming down, renting cottages, shopping. going to restaurants or spending any more money here.

Representative Quote:

If you close the beaches to 4x4 vehicles there is no reason for my family and our friends to come down. Three times a year we rent a house in Avon. We come down twice in October (with 6 people) for fishing and come down once in November (15 people) for Thanksgiving Holiday and fishing. During our stay we spend New Jersey dollars for rent, taxes, food, bait, gas, tackle,

entertainment, etc. In addition to the usual yearly expenses, this year we will be buying yearly North Carolina fishing licenses. To date we have spent \$1500.00 to reserve our rentals for October and November. Our dollars alone may not impact your economy but if you multiply what we spend by the number of dollars spent by other yearly fishing tourists visiting the Outer Banks there will be a definite negative impact on your economy.

Topic:

Comments address the potential impacts of ORV management on topographic conditions

Representative Quote:

the potentially deleterious impact of beach travel on the geographic and geologic stability of the barrier islands should be subjected to careful study and evaluation.

Topic:

Comments address the potential impacts of ORV management on wildlife and wildlife habitat

Representative Quote:

My recommendation is that the disruptive nature of off-road vehicles and travel be viewed in the widest possible context in terms of their impact on the environment of the National Seashore. Protection of nesting seabirds and sea turtles is one aspect of this issue. However, consideration should also be given to disruption of the coastal/beach habitat for non-nesting and non-threatened species, both faunal and floral.

Topic:

Comments address the potential impacts of ORV management on visitor use and experience

Representative Quote:

The appeal of the CHNS is the combined ability to enjoy the wildlife areas that are not accessible to vehicles and the beach areas that are accessible... I would not travel 9+ hours every year if it weren't for the ability to drive on the beach and surf fish with all my supplies handy.

Representative Quote:

The right to beach access on Hatteras and Ocracoke island is very important to me and hundreds of thousands of other users of the resource and has been since the invention of the automobile... Without ORV access it would be pointless to make those trips, and if any further restrictions or bans are put in place I will not return to Hatteras or Ocracoke island, there would be no purpose in making a five and a half hour drive when the right to access the beach to surf fish is taken away.

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Public Comment Analysis Report

Commenters by Organization Report

The NPS received correspondence from unaffiliated individuals as well as from official representatives of the following organizations:

American Sportfishing Association
Cape Hatteras Business Allies
Cape Hatteras Recreational Alliance
County of Dare Office of the Board of Commissioners
Environmental Defense
Hatteras Island Homeowners Coalition
Hyde County Commissioner's Office
Outer Banks Preservation Association

CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN/EIS
PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

AC1005 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Limiting ORV Access

1. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated opposition for the limiting of ORV access in the park in order to protect wildlife habitat. Commenters felt that other issues to protect habitat should be addressed, such as predation.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1329 **Comment Id:** 44310

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Simply closing beach to ORV's and not reducing the predation that cause the vast, vast majority of mortality of endangered species, or not providing alternate means of ORV access to unaffected beach, is simply not an acceptable solution.

Correspondence Id: 1296 **Comment Id:** 51723

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I believe that beach access should not be limited because of nesting birds. Fishing and beach access is the reason I go to Buxton. I made my first trip to Hatteras about 35 years ago and it is still my favorite vacation spot in the united states. Being able to drive on the beach and enjoy the ocean is the reason for me to go there. Please do not close access to the beach.

Correspondence Id: 373 **Comment Id:** 54580

Organization: Surf Fisherman **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Please stop unreasonable beach closures for ORV traffic just to supposedly save a few piping plovers. We need to be able to get on the beaches and off the beaches without disturbing existing wildlife, but the wildlife should not keep us off the beaches!

2. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated opposition to the restriction of ORV usage emphasizing the importance of recreational enjoyment.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1340 **Comment Id:** 51685

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Open access to the beach at Cape Hatteras has been ongoing for several hundred years and it seems to be doing great-except for the parts the Park Service has screwed up. The CHNS was meant to be preserved for the people to use and enjoy. It seems lately a few individuals have taken on a mission to reduce or eliminate this recreational use for reasons that are greatly flawed in both concept and factual content. Restriction of ORV use, beyond what it is already, would serve absolutely no environmental purpose. It would deprive thousands of people and future generations of the ability to enjoy one of the most wonderful recreational experiences on the planet. I am an advocate for no further restriction of ORV use at CHNS.

Correspondence Id: 1263 **Comment Id:** 52530

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please do not destroy Cape Hatteras National Seashore by unduly limiting vehicular access to its many miles of unspoiled beaches. If we can no longer reach our favorite beaches such as Hatteras Inlet, Ocracoke Inlet and Cape Point we will not only lose a favorite vacation destination, but also an important part of our identity and our dreams for the future.

Correspondence Id: 152 **Comment Id:** 53045

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: We enjoy the free and open access to the beaches. Like most fishermen, we are respectful of the beaches, dunes, birds and other wildlife. We would not like to see access to the beaches restricted or denied. We use the beaches to get to various fishing spots, not to joyride.

Correspondence Id: 1280 **Comment Id:** 51750

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would like to voice my opposition to the restrictions of vehicular traffic on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I have been vacationing in Avon, NC each year for the past ten years. We have chosen Avon because of its beautiful and secluded beaches and simple way of life. Part of the attraction is the miles of beach that are accessible to surfing and fishing due to the ability to drive along the beach. Any changes to that aspect would limit the attractiveness and uniqueness of the area. Please do

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not limit vehicular access to the beach.

3. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that limiting ORV access would negatively impact the economy of the local communities.

Comment [11]: Come back to this one, may get deleted after looking at socio comments

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 356 **Comment Id:** 52495

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Much of the livelihood of the southern outer banks depends on tourism and sportsmen endeavors. If access to the beaches are restricted or disallowed ORV's, this could negatively impact both the economy of the area and offset possibly generations of conservation minded sportsmen who support the well-being of the economy and care about the eco-system. Please do not restrict beach access.

Correspondence Id: 361 **Comment Id:** 54683

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please don't take away this privilege of driving on the beach. Many of us will no longer come to the coast and contribute to the local economy if this is taking away.

Correspondence Id: 287 **Comment Id:** 55181

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Please keep the beaches available to people like me and the fishermen who contribute to the businesses and lively hood of the great people of the outer banks.

4. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated opposition to any form of ORV limitations or further beach closures.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 458 **Comment Id:** 52980

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I AM AGAINST BEACH VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

Correspondence Id: 1227 **Comment Id:** 52210

Organization: CCFW OBPA UNITED 4WD ASS **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would ask that the NPS unanimously endorse

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keeping all beach access venues and ramps open to the public during the entire season. The purpose of a National Park is FOR THE PEOPLE NOT FROM THE PEOPLE.

Correspondence Id:257 **Comment Id:** 53226

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please do not restrict access to any NPS beaches for off road vehicles.

Correspondence Id: 402 **Comment Id:** 55090

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I want to continue to enjoy all that the outer banks has to offer. I do not want to see more areas closed to Vehicular Traffic.

5. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggest changes to the implementation and length of closures along the seashore.

Comment [12]: Check and see if under an AC code, if so remove from here.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 375 **Comment Id:** 55162

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Closures should be smaller and removed in a more timely manner.

AC1010 Alternative Concepts: Limit ORV Access

6. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested methods to limit ORV access, such as creating zones with and without ORVs, creating closures based on the timing of wildlife nesting and breeding periods, and mitigating areas that are limited by implementing measures such as vehicle bypasses or limiting the length of vehicle limitations.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1356 **Comment Id:** 42470

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I must also mention that I have concerns about the potential ecological damage done to the oceanfront beach by constant ORV transit. I do not know if ORV traffic destroys or depletes the organisms that inhabit the beachfront...creatures like

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mole crabs and coquinas and other things that live in the beach front zone. Perhaps studies have been done on this. I would think a series of beach conservation zones ...like a beach front wilderness zone...where ORV access would be restricted, might be in order.

beach front wilderness zone

Correspondence Id: 1355 **Comment Id:** 43785

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way.

bird turtle nesting season - no ORVs on beach

Correspondence Id: 358 **Comment Id:** 54806

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I understand the need to protect the endangered birds and wildlife in the park as well. I believe Mr. Murray would be remiss if he did not consider implementing a plan that allows some small beach closures in areas directly related to hatchlings or other wildlife. The plan can also allow for vehicle traffic to be routed around those closures to allow all those people such as myself who only get to use the beach areas once or twice a year in the summer. This happens to be the time that the most beach closures are in place. Closing an entire section of beach does not seem reasonable.

route around closures
smaller closures
- not need to close an entire section of beach

Correspondence Id: 563 **Comment Id:** 56898

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way.

same idea as

Correspondence Id: 966 **Comment Id:** 55126

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am a lifelong resident of North Carolina and I treasure Cape Hatteras National Seashore, as many do. However, there MUST be a more appropriate balance between off-road vehicle access and the protection of wild land, species protection and opportunities for non-motorized recreation. Specifically: - Species of native wildlife that are listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act, such as the piping plover, must be protected from harm and their critical habitat protected for their

use, if necessary, to the exclusion of other uses. - During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way, and the turtles will be unharmed.

Correspondence Id: 285 **Comment Id:** 52601
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I am in favor of protected areas for turtles and birds provided that reasonable access for ORV use is maintained near the high tide line.

Correspondence Id: 401 **Comment Id:** 54803
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I understand from time to time closures are needed to protect wildlife, but I would like to see both the frequency and areas affected by this minimized to be both low impacts economically and literally

Correspondence Id: 1395 **Comment Id:** 55174
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Only allow surf fishermen to use ORV's on the beach. And limit the areas and times based on best practices for wildlife.

Correspondence Id: 288 **Comment Id:** 55197
Organization: Appalachian Ecological Consultants **Organization Type:** Individual
Comment Text: Lastly - I think that ORV traffic, if largely limited to automobile usage, can be concentrated in very small areas that allow the public to access the beach but not drive all over it.

only allow surf fishermen to use ORV's on the beach + limit times

7. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested limiting ORV use by creating specific ORV ~~only~~ areas in order to protect habitat.

smaller areas for ORV use

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 251 **Comment Id:** 53117
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: We urge you to begin taking the crucial steps needed to reduce the destruction caused by ORVs and to reduce the disproportionate influence exerted by the ORV lobby on

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policy: . Ensure that all stakeholders are equally repr discussions. . Enforce all laws against encroaching o sites. . Challenge the Fish and Wildlife Service's mi: interpretation of the "incidental take" of endangerec specifically the Piping Plover. . Lead the way to re: build the long bridge recommended by the state of federal agencies-but axed by the Interior Dept. at t the ORV lobby. The long bridge would bypass Pe preserve undeveloped barrier island and wildlife designated areas for ORV use, away from critica

Correspondence Id: 465 **Comment Id:** 53199

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Ty**
Individual

Comment Text: Please protect the Cape Hatteras National Seashore from ORV's. Give these people a small chunk of land away from the seashore and let them destroy it to their hearts content, but get them off the habitat for the turtles and plovers. This is a National Seashore, not just for abuse by a small group.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55476

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:**
Individual

Comment Text: We urge the Seashore to implement the following protection measures to protect nesting non-breeding shorebirds within the Seashore: 1. The soundside wet sand and/or mud flats and ephemeral pools/ponds associated with Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Spit, and the southern end of Ocracoke Island should be closed to vehicles, dogs, and active recreation activity. Passive recreation activity, such as fishing, could be permitted within a narrow corridor (<10 m) along the soundside water line in an area within 200 m from Ocracoke Inlet and 100m from Hatteras and Oregon Inlets.

*Needs to go
into alt.
elements
Table*

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55473

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:**
Individual

Comment Text: 6. Exceptions to the pedestrian and ORV closures: a. Cape Point: ORVs could be permitted to travel on the north side of Cape Point through a corridor within 20 m from the mean high water line to reach the easternmost tip of Cape Point and -300m along the south side of Cape Point (which could remain open) provided that suitable habitat and recommended buffer distances are established (to the water line if necessary) on the south side of Cape Point and that nesting colonial waterbirds and Piping Plovers were not disturbed or otherwise threatened by this

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action. b. Hatteras Inlet: an alternate route through habitat that is not appropriate for nesting oystercatchers, piping plovers, or colonial waterbirds could be established to provide for access to Pamlico Sound as long as such a route was at an appropriate distance from nesting or potential nesting sites, and foraging habitat for terns, skimmers, American oystercatchers, and Piping Plovers and these species were not disturbed or otherwise threatened by this action. c. Ocracoke Island: a pedestrian and ORV corridor could be established to allow access along the northern and southern oceanfront beach to the inlets provided that the sound side (including wet sand and intertidal areas to the water line) was closed to all activity and such a corridor did not jeopardize nesting colonial waterbirds and Piping Plovers were not disturbed or otherwise threatened by this action.

Correspondence Id: 1389 **Comment Id:** 55331

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Most suitable bird habitat areas on the beach should be set aside exclusively No driving permitted in area in front of houses Remaining areas should be split between motorized use and non-motorized use Year round protection for sensitive species habitat areas

Talks Table

8. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested limiting ORVs by establishing pedestrian-only sections of beach

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2858 **Comment Id:** 51844

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: In my ideal world there would be no cars on the beach whatsoever! (Except park rangers and handicapped) But I realize the need to share. Please let some long (5 mile+) sections of beach on Ocracoke be Pedestrian Only! And not just section N of pony pen that have little dune and you can see the cars and trucks whizzing by on Hwy 12.

Correspondence Id: 263 **Comment Id:** 53261

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is my strong opinion that all ORV usage must be kept to a minimum, several miles at the most. The rest should be restricted to pedestrian foot-traffic only. What is open to ORVs

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must also be open on a fee basis only. However, commercial fisherman should be able to continue their livelihood so an exception must be made for them.)

9. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested modeling the ORV Management Plan at Cape Hatteras after plans that have been implemented at other parks.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1399 **Comment Id:** 55083

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I will appreciate it if you could respond to this letter and inform me why you can not formulate an ORV beach access policy similar to the one at Cape Cod National Seashore for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore instead of the " negotiated rule process".

Correspondence Id: 2864 **Comment Id:** 54817

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is well past time to start implementing management strategies that have worked for Cape Cod Seashore's wildlife in Hatteras. Critical areas in a few locations should be cordoned off with adequate buffer zones and regular patrols should be tough on enforcement. An ORV management plan should move forward as quickly as possible. The management plan should not be based on which stakeholders can shout the loudest.

10. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that limited ORV access to only use by NPS staff for administrative or emergency purposes.

Phys handicapped + comm. fisherman (trad. work)

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 357 **Comment Id:** 55334

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The only motorized vehicles that have a right to the beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) are National Park Service (NPS) and other authorized government vehicles, emergency rescue vehicles, vehicles carrying physically disabled persons and vehicles engaged in traditional work.

Correspondence Id: 288 **Comment Id:** 55174

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Organization: Appalachian Ecological Consultants **Organization Type:** Individual
Comment Text: I hesitate to say that ORV usage should not be allowed at all - but ATV usage should be entirely excluded except by park staff.

AC1012 Alternative Concepts: Support Limiting ORV Access

11. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated support for ORV access at the Seashore, stating that the use should be limited. Some suggestions included increasing regulations for ORV use and not allowing ORV access beyond current management.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 729 **Comment Id:** 55298
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I have always been amazed at the fact that beach access is free and unsupervised. I think there needs to be more regulation of access at certain times and in certain areas, and I also think there should be a fee for use, as there is in most other 4WD beach areas, which could go a long way to support programs and maintenance of the area.

time area limits

Correspondence Id: 1306 **Comment Id:** 51705
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I highly encourage you to be more stringent in your regulations concerning ORV's at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Our bird population is suffering greatly at the hands of people that have no regard for them. I doubt very seriously when Teddy Roosevelt created the National Park System, that he had any idea that decades later there would be ORV's riding up and down our beautiful beaches - so many that at times they look like parking lots. Our National Parks are intended to preserve the environment and the wildlife that lives there, not to be so abused by humans for their own selfish pleasures.

Correspondence Id: 56 **Comment Id:** 45118
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I would like to state that the current management plan of limited ORV access to the Hatteras National Seashore is fine. Please do not allow further vehicle traffic to the beach area, it

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would be most upsetting, for wildlife, and people enjoying the beach as well. Traffic if allowed on the beach would disrupt all that is treasured about the Hatteras National Seashore. Please I ask that you strongly consider limiting vehicle access to the beach and continue with the current management plan.

Correspondence Id: 2871 **Comment Id:** 52261

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I urge NPS to reduce the mileage of beaches that is dominated by off-road vehicles. Out of 53 beach miles in the seashore, less than 5 miles is even closed on a seasonal basis. That is badly out of balance.

Correspondence Id: 346 **Comment Id:** 52963

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I ask the NPS to limit the use of ORV in the Outer Banks. As an intern for the USFWS at Pea Island, I observed firsthand the damage caused by ORV's.

Correspondence Id: 275 **Comment Id:** 53305

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It would not be too much to ask to restrict some use of ORVs and increase the penalties for ignoring the clearly posted and appropriate regulations to prevent the seashore and its inhabitants from becoming a memory.

12. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters supported limiting ORV access due to sensitive wildlife and ecosystems, noting the need to protect wildlife and wildlife habitats at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2805 **Comment Id:** 52464

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please stop allowing cars to circulate on the beaches. Turtle eggs will not hatch when a car pass on top of the nests. Keep beaches for the natural users; sea turtles, crustaceans (eaten by birds) and humans (ecofriendly users).

Correspondence Id: 2805 **Comment Id:** 52464

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Reasonable ORV access is needed w/ reasonable restrictions to protect plants and animals in the park.

Correspondence Id: 612 **Comment Id:** 54149

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: My husband and I have been to Cape Hatteras National Seashore and hope to go again, but there needs to be some control on off-road vehicle access in order to protect the wildlife and the people who are not in vehicles.

Correspondence Id: 872 **Comment Id:** 53904

Organization: Wilderness Society **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I feel offroad vehicle use should be regulated so as not to interfere with wildlife breeding and welfare.

Correspondence Id: 2907 **Comment Id:** 55276

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I urge you to wage the good fight by taking the difficult position of defending the wildlife and the beach itself by restricting vehicular access to the beaches so that future generations might enjoy this wonderful area as I have.

Correspondence Id: 317 **Comment Id:** 53192

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please restrict off road vehicles in our National Seashore so that birds and the fragile beach environment are not harmed by them. I actually do not see any need for them on a National Seashore, which I expect my government to manage for the protection and benefit of the wildlife and natural features. There are certainly plenty of other beaches in North Carolina where ORVs seem to have full access in the off season months.

Correspondence Id: 2978 **Comment Id:** 54560

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: All the other national seashores have restrictions, like banning night driving, and restricting the use of ORVs at certain times. Cape Hatteras National Seashore should be no exception. We can handle a few restrictions if it means that the

no night driving

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Outer Banks will preserve that wild, natural feel which makes it so unique among coastal areas.

Correspondence Id: 789 **Comment Id:** 53921

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore's fragile eco-system from overuse by off road vehicles. This area and its non-human inhabitants should be protected from the ravages of 4 wheelers, motorbikes etc. Also, the humans who wish to enjoy the area in peaceful quiet should be allowed to do so.

Correspondence Id: 1324 **Comment Id:** 47928

Organization: North Carolina State University **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: The restriction of ORV use is a prerequisite for the protection of these natural resources.

13. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that ORV use should be limited and all groups should compromise regarding the use of the seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 346 **Comment Id:** 52965

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am realistic and know that ORV's will not be outlawed in the Outer Banks. However, is it too much to ask for limitations on this privilege? Let me stress the term privilege, because that is what it is not a right. Those who drive ORV's need to compromise with the interests of the rest of us, those taxpayers who enjoy the natural beauty of the OBX along with its animals.

Correspondence Id: 790 **Comment Id:** 53918

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I have visited the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, many times over the years. We have loved our time there, except for the EXCESSIVE ORV use. I feel that there needs to be a more appropriate balance between off-road vehicle access and the protection of wild land values, species protection and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

AC1022 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Eliminating ORV Access

14. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters supported traditional ORV access at the Seashore and oppose eliminating any current access.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1372 **Comment Id:** 42523

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: However, the complete closures of some or all of Cape Hatteras are unacceptable. Should wildlife species protection is needed, any and all actions and alternatives to maintain open and traditional Outer Banks ORV access needs to be considered, implemented, and allowed.

Correspondence Id: 1260 **Comment Id:** 51781

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Cape Hatteras is one of the few places left in the entire nation where beach driving is still legal on selected sections of beaches; please don't allow the last small amount to be closed. It may seem like a small section of beach to some, but it is important to many, as it has been for generations.

15. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters opposed eliminating ORV access due to critical habitat designations and environmental concerns, and felt that eliminating ORVs would result in a loss of visitation to the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 138 **Comment Id:** 53033

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I hope and pray that this privilege to access the beach area via Orvs will not be taken away due to the past history of critical habitat designation. I hope that a solution that benefits both nature and visitors and residents can be found.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53163

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I firmly believe that Beach access whether by vehicle or foot (pedestrian) should be allowed. While arguments

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exist that ORV users are destroying the habitat (natural resource), can anyone tell me that a 3-day Nor'easter doesn't destroy the habitat (natural resource) or any other natural event (hurricane doesn't destroy the habitat (natural resource). While agreeing that the above are natural events, ORV usage should not be disallowed due to misaligned perceptions of others.

Correspondence Id: 144 **Comment Id:** 52317

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I know some of the plovers die from being crushed by vehicles, and some say they can get stuck in the ruts of the tires, but a ORV restricted beach would have its own set of hazards and small number of plovers on CHNS now and historically compared with other areas is not enough to do something so radical as completely closing off the beach to all ORV's to me.

Correspondence Id: 239 **Comment Id:** 53022

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: We have the greatest resource available to us in the country which is our beaches and the right to enjoy them. We must not let that be taken away from us or anyone. It is revenue for our residents of the Outer Banks and it is a way to get out and see our natural beauty in a way most people can't. Fishing the Outer Banks is a fun and relaxing sport that I'm not sure I could do without. Please let us not make any rules that would jeopardize our beach freedom.

Correspondence Id: 2940 **Comment Id:** 53895

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I recently read that you all were thinking about closing the beaches to off road vehicles. This truly upsets me. My first trip to Oregon an Inlet was 2 years ago. It has now been a summer tradition that we go twice a year. There is nothing more I look forward to then summer. I know that each year I will be able to drive on the beach and relax in my own spot. We can't do this anywhere else unless we fly to Daytona Fla. That wouldn't be a lot fun!

Correspondence Id: 2922 **Comment Id:** 53571

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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Comment Text: If we couldn't drive out to the point, I doubt we would visit the area as often as we do since the CHNSRA is what makes Cape Hatteras so much better than any other beach we have every been to.

Correspondence Id: 367 **Comment Id:** 52505

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: If ORV access is denied to the general public then a vast number of folks who first took an interest in the beaches will be denied access to parts of the area that provide the best fishing. I am not naive to the point of claiming everyone who uses the beach is as conscientious as we are, but in all my years down there I believe most surf fishermen are extremely in tune with conservation issues and will do anything to abide by the rules. I realize that times change and there are people who would keep the beaches pristine to the point of not using them at all. Can't we compromise and at least please as many people as we can. Bluntly put there is no way we can walk to the good fishing holes on the north of the island and to deny access would be terrible as we look forward to this two week trip every Fall.

16. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated general opposition to the elimination of beach access citing the accessibility options ORVs provide for the handicapped.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 3537 **Comment Id:** 55539

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: A picture is worth a thousand words, and I can show you a handicapped young lady having the times of her life that can not be seen anywhere else. Maybe a few modifications are in order to keep everyone on the same page, but please, I beg you do not completely stop vehicle beach access. This would be devastating to me and my family for years to come, not to say what it does by putting up more barriers for the handicapped.

17. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters argued against the total elimination of beach access to ORV users.

Representative Quote(s):

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Correspondence Id: 206 **Comment Id:** 53009

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: But I do not agree to close the beach to ORVS!!

Correspondence Id: 453 **Comment Id:** 52859

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please don't close the park!

Correspondence Id: 249 **Comment Id:** 53142

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am writing this note in reference to various organizations fighting to have beaches along Cape Hatteras National Seashore closed to off-road vehicles. I am asking for your assistance in stopping this movement.

Correspondence Id: 341 **Comment Id:** 56067

Organization: Nature Conservancy **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I am against any total ban of ORV traffic in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

18. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters opposed eliminating ORV access to the beaches citing benefits these users have, such as assisting with trash removal.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 394 **Comment Id:** 52661

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Closing the beaches to ORV is a bad idea! We clean more trash up and at times we could be the first line of defense if there is a problem because we have access to areas walk-ons don't have...Keep the beaches open!!!!

19. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested stricter law enforcement as an alternative to total elimination of ORV access.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 344 **Comment Id:** 56036

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The beach needs more rangers to enforce the law, not the removal of ORV's as a solution.

Comment [13]: Check at the end, this concept may be captured under AC4000, for suggestion of greater enforcement

AC1027 Alternative Concepts: Support Eliminating ORV Access

20. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated support for total elimination of ORVs at the seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1325 **Comment Id:** 44337

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I feel that the use of ORV's should be eliminated at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence Id: 528 **Comment Id:** 54101

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please no off road vehicles on any National seashores, anywhere!!!!!!!!!!

Correspondence Id: 3515 **Comment Id:** 55178

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I also believe that motorized vehicles should be banned from all shores.

Correspondence Id: 622 **Comment Id:** 54118

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Recreation does not include destruction. Please ban these vehicles from the Cape Hatteras area.

Correspondence Id: 2808 **Comment Id:** 51862

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I support a ban on beach driving.

Correspondence Id: 952 **Comment Id:** 52786

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Off-road vehicles should be prohibited from all public beaches, and should have been banned from Cape Hatteras long before this.

21. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters supported elimination of ORV access because of the impact of vehicles on wildlife and the rest of the environment, human health and safety, and noise issues related to ORV use.

Comment [14]: Come back to at end, similar to one already used above.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 45136

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is just ridiculous that we cannot keep a National Park protected from being destroyed. Politics should not play into this. There should be no question: the beach should be shut off from ANY offroad vehicle access. People are so selfish to think that the seashores are for their use only. These birds, like the piping plover, were using this long before any of them were ever thought of. How dare we go into their home and destroy it.

Correspondence Id: 753 **Comment Id:** 53923

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I feel that off-road vehicles should not be allowed because it is a beautiful pristine area, Wildlife will be disturbed. In this time the animals don't have a lot of options for wilderness. Please keep it vehicle free.

Correspondence Id: 731 **Comment Id:** 54108

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please, sirs, help protect this treasured area and its wildlife from the incredible damage done by off-road vehicles! There's just no need for them there. The damage careless use of off-road vehicles do is plain for any and all to see. ... Get the off-road vehicles out.

Correspondence Id: 157 **Comment Id:** 53050

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The barrier beaches of N. Carolina's Outer Banks are home to many species of birds. These beaches also provide enjoyment to those who visit on foot. All this is being threatened by allowing off-road vehicles (ORVs) access to these beaches. Not only do they threaten bird habitats but they make it unpleasant for other people. Instead of views of nature, there are parked as well as moving vehicles. Instead of sea air there is the smell of gasoline.

Instead of wildlife there is machinery. Please reconsider this policy and ban ORV's.

Correspondence Id: 112 **Comment Id:** 52717

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is appalling to me that ORVs are allowed in areas of beach nesting birds. I appeal to you to see that the practice is discontinued and that efforts toward this end be hastened to stop the slaughter presently occurring.

wrong conc. statement

Correspondence Id: 204 **Comment Id:** 52990

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Close the parks to ORV use, particularly in sensitive nesting areas. As a compromise for access, create limited transport with a well-regulated concession using quiet, nonpolluting transports that would take fishermen and their gear to fishing spots and stop the unregulated access that has so compromised these areas.

alt. transport concession

Correspondence Id: 1304 **Comment Id:** 51709

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am opposed to any use of ORV's on the beaches in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The noise, noxious exhaust, and physical threat to thousands of people walking the beach do not justify the use of these vehicles by a limited few. The disturbance of wildlife, in particular birdlife, is also a major negative to any use of these vehicles on the beach. The whole beach experience, for humans as well as wild life, would be significantly enhanced by a total ban on beach driving.

Correspondence Id: 2858 **Comment Id:** 51843

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I prefer a CAR-FREE beach for the following reasons; 1) don't have to worry about child being run-over. 2) Peace, Quiet, Privacy, Nature. Cars on the beach totally change the tranquil, natural aspects of the beach. 3) Ruts and erosion 4) Wildlife protection.

Correspondence Id: 76 **Comment Id:** 52866

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Motorized recreation should be banned from the Cape Hatteras land and sea corridor. Motorized recreationalists prevent my family from engaging in our low-impact recreation. These high impact folks harm birds, fish, people, and habitat.

Correspondence Id: 573 **Comment Id:** 54104

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a natural area that should be protected. Off-road vehicles are very damaging to the environment. Please completely ban the use of off-road vehicles in Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence Id: 279 **Comment Id:** 53300

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am writing to ask that you preserve the pristine landscape of this protected area, and do not allow motorized vehicles free access there. Along with the visual, audible and physical pollution they create, they also disturb nesting areas for many birds and sea turtles.

Correspondence Id: 700 **Comment Id:** 54109

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: When I visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore last summer I was appalled at the noise and destructiveness of the off road vehicles. There was no quiet or peace to be found there whatsoever. ... All off road vehicles should be BANNED PERMANENTLY. It is not a racetrack.

Correspondence Id: 1193 **Comment Id:** 51846

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is very disturbing to see off-road vehicles running rampant on the beautiful beaches of Hatteras Island. The eco-system is fragile enough as it is. Please take measures to prohibit off-road vehicle usage unless it is for a specific reason, such as an emergency.

Correspondence Id: 1256 **Comment Id:** 51814

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am against Off-Road use Park land for recreational drivers. I would say that it defeats the purpose of our National Parks if we destroy the very environment we are

supposed to be saving. It has become clear that the land and the animals within it are damaged. I also understand that people derive pleasure from buzzing around, making big noises and going fast. Perhaps a modified race track of a sophisticated type would solve the problem. However, if we wish to preserve our national treasures, then the parks are not the place for this activity.

AC1030 Alternative Concepts: Permitting System

22. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that the Seashore implement a permitting system in order to control access and finance park initiatives such as enforcement, species monitoring, and research. Commenters also noted that they would like to see a guarantee as to where permit funds would be used in the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1375 **Comment Id:** 42529

Organization: NCBBA charter member, OBPA **Organization**

Type: Individual

Comment Text: 6. Although my position is changing on this believe it or not I have over the years advocated for a permit system to finance additional beach patrols. My thinking being that beach driving is a privilege that can be taken away if abused. I think that this would particularly limit the type of joy rider who wants to "4 wheel drive" on the beach, many times with Daddy's car. As the Currituck beach becomes more crowded and perhaps closed those day joy riders will naturally head south. CURRENTLY HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED THAT ONCE ESTABLISHED IT WOULD GO THE WAY OF CAPE COD AND ASSATEAGUE WITH MORE AND MORE RESTRICTIONS AND HIGHER AND HIGHER FEES. UNFORTUNATELY ONCE GOVERNMENT GETS INTO SOMETHING THEY NEVER SEEM TO LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE. So unless there was some sort of guarantee as to the use of permit money and a cap on increases beyond the rate of inflation I would currently be opposed.

Correspondence Id: 2908 **Comment Id:** 55250

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I strongly suggest implementing a fee for vehicle access to specified Cape Hatteras National Seashore surf areas. The collected money could be used for enforcement, administration, ecological studies and conservation. Balancing the needs of all stakeholders can be accomplished.

Correspondence Id: 1404 **Comment Id:** 56016

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Payment of a yearly fee for every vehicle that uses the off-road parts of the Park could offset the costs of monitoring our feathered friends, somewhat, if beaches are not closed wholesale as in years past. Don't charge me for something & then say I can't use it.

Correspondence Id: 2823 **Comment Id:** 52988

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Fees for ORVs. Either a year round permit, or a week permit. These fees could help pay for personal to enforce the number of ORVs on the beach; and maybe pay for more enforcement to keep an eye on badly behaving tourists.

23. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested implementing a permitting system in conjunction with an education program, with possible revocation of permits if rule are violated after this education program.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 340 **Comment Id:** 55714

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Regarding a Permit System, I am in general against permits because I see them as a first step in limiting access by numbers. However, I struggle with how to effectively educate folks regarding beach driving. I might consider a permit system because of the experience I had at ODNRA. There the permit was \$10, was good for 2 years and the required equipment/vehicle inspection with a brief run thru of the rules takes about 20-30 minutes. So I might (repeat MIGHT) consider a permit if the permit is (1) readily available without the horror story waits we have heard about in other areas, (2) the number of permits is not limited, (3) any permit fee only includes cost to administer the program, (4) is valid for 2 years for a given vehicle/driver, (5) includes a requirement to have read a set of rules and tips on beach driving as well as other Seashore rules such as fires, fireworks, dead fish on the beach, etc. and (6) includes a requirement to have certain equipment in the vehicle like shovel, tow strap, board for jack, etc. And I emphasize again "might consider" in order to support beach driving education.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55488

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: One program that should be considered is the establishment a permit-based ORV access program whereby all ORV users must have a permit to drive on Seashore beaches. User orientation programs are common in Seashores, Parks, Refuges, Wilderness Areas, and National Forests where visitors can have a significant impact on sensitive natural resources. As part of the permit process, visitors should be required participate in a Seashore orientation program which, should include a natural resource awareness component and a thorough explanation of Seashore regulations. This would allow the Seashore to reach all ORV users. This type of program can also serve to alleviate issues for Seashore law enforcement personnel by ensuring that all ORV users are aware of Seashore regulations. If violations resulted in the revocation of beach-driving privileges for the offender, drivers may make an extra effort to ensure they are operating their vehicles in a safe and responsible manner.



24. CONCERN STATEMENT:

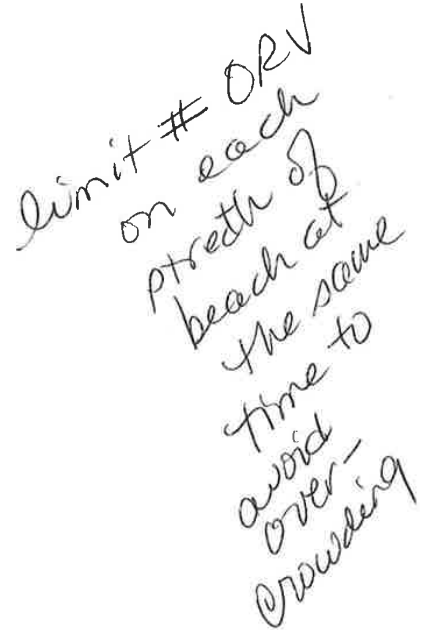
Commenters suggested the use of fees from permitting to repair and maintain areas within the seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1225 **Comment Id:** 52658

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: To bear the cost of policing the ORVs on the beach, and repairing the damage they do, plus maintenance of the ramps, a permit for each vehicle taken on the beach should be mandatory, and could be issued weekly, monthly, or yearly. There should be a maximum number of vehicles allowed on each stretch of the beach at the same time to avoid overcrowding.



Correspondence Id: 1293 **Comment Id:** 51728

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 2) I think an ORV permit for visitors whether weekly or annual is not unreasonable if the funds were committed to patrols and lifeguards and trash collection.

25. CONCERN STATEMENT:

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Commenters made suggestions for a permit system related to the number of ORVs at the Seashore. Commenters stated that these permits could be based on a carrying capacity and could be used by the Seashore to get a better understanding of the level of vehicle use on the beaches or limit the amount of ORV use. They also provided suggestions on how a permit system could be implemented, including how the permits would be distributed.

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Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 256 **Comment Id:** 53228

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 1) In order to minimize damage to the seashore and soundside environments by ORVs, a permitting system could be developed that issues permits favoring locals to be followed by a limited, finite number of permits to be determined by the Park on a first come first serve basis. ORVs could be allowed only in areas proscribed by NPS. At this stage, enforcement problems can be expected to arise no matter what limitations are put on the number of vehicles allowed in the Park at any given time. Therefore, enforcement needs to part of the package.

Correspondence Id: 1263 **Comment Id:** 52532

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Therefore, our suggestion is that the new ORV management plan focuses on better enforcement of existing regulations along with a fee permit system if necessary to defray costs. We would not be adverse to purchasing an annual ORV permit such as at Assateague Island National Seashore to defray the costs of increased enforcement, and if this fee were steep enough perhaps that would limit the crowds somewhat. This cost should be minimal to Island residents, with tourists such as ourselves assuming the burden. We would gladly pay a permit fee between \$100 and \$200 per year for ORV access if it would assure us open access, keep the crowds in check and allow for increased enforcement of reckless driving, littering, and driving on vegetation and in restricted areas. Perhaps increased enforcement would appease the more moderate environmentalists somewhat as well if they felt the natural resources could be better protected.

Correspondence Id: 2955 **Comment Id:** 54788

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Fees for ORV driving permits (equitable to the associated cost of maintaining ORV use in the seashore). One possibility is a year round permit and week permit options. Carrying capacity limits (quotas number for ORVs on the beach based on each location).

Correspondence Id: 269 **Comment Id:** 53244

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would support a free permit that would be required for access to the beaches. This permit (and future beach access) would be revoked from vehicles operating in an unsafe manner or violating any beach-driving regulations. Such a permit would also give the NPS a better understanding of how many vehicles are using the beaches.

Correspondence Id: 2871 **Comment Id:** 52263

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The number of vehicles on the beach should be regulated as it is at Assateague National Seashore. NPS issues annual permits and keep the numbers of vehicles on the beach below 145 at any given time. Only half the beach mileage is open to ORVs.

Correspondence Id: 1323 **Comment Id:** 47108

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Driving fees should be required. Permits will allow tracking of vehicles. Fees can be used to offset dollars spent in the park.

26. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that a permitting system would encourage negative results at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1221 **Comment Id:** 52221

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Already, vast portions of the beach are restricted from ORV use - Avon to Buxton, and the Hatteras housing areas. Further restricting ORV access can only increase the intensity of demand for those areas that remain open. With increased demand, I believe that ORV permits will radically change the nature of the CH national seashore. There will be competition for permits and

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competition for space on the beach. Permits will be the source of bribes and black market forces and stealing. Permits will anger long-time visitors and locals who feel that their freedom of the beach is being limited. Moreover, if permits are used to grant access to specific points along the beach that will be all but impossible to enforce and lead to further conflict and skirting the system as I envision above.

27. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested elements that could be incorporated into a permit system at the Seashore. These elements included requiring permits and proof of insurance on all vehicles entering the park, allotting permits to certain groups (such as fishermen), pricing structures and price ranges for permits, permit terms (daily, weekly, yearly, etc.)

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1198 **Comment Id:** 52239

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: since it is a motor vehicle using parkland why not require them to pay for a permit to use the property for off road vehicles as well as required them to show insurance for the vehicle in the event they damage the property or hit a person while on the Government property as well as use of alcohol regulations.

Correspondence Id: 2821 **Comment Id:** 55324

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: and beach driving permits for fishermen only.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55289

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: An annual beach permit has been brought to my attention as a possibility. I am not opposed to paying for a permit but would recommend that you keep it under \$50/yr.

Correspondence Id: 670 **Comment Id:** 55073

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Costs vary depending on the locale and no doubt an Outer Banks pass could command a pretty penny. A logical approach would be to offer a low priced, three to five day pass and a costlier annual pass. The money from these passes could go

directly into research and personnel pay to aid in the maintenance of shore bird nesting sites and populations as a whole

Correspondence Id: 387 **Comment Id:** 56334

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would be willing to pay a user fee for the privilege to drive on the beach. Perhaps a \$50.00 annual permit. These funds could only be used for beach traffic laws enforcement and new ramps on either end of newly opened to OVR use sections of the beach. I am willing to pay for what I use. Let others do the same.

Correspondence Id: 1396 **Comment Id:** 54527

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would propose that every vehicle owner entering the Outer Banks must have purchased a vehicle access permit of varying degrees of cost ...lesser (preferably no cost at all) for the year round residents, higher for the part-year rental property owners/residents, and even higher for the visitors. This could be accomplished by having a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly and/or lifetime access sticker available for purchase and enforced at the first access to the Outer Banks such as Hwy 64 from the East Hwy 158 from the North...and the Ferry terminals elsewhere covering all entrances to the Outer Banks. The funds collected from this permit could be used specifically for maintenance and enforcement of the Outer Banks beaches.

Correspondence Id: 1378 **Comment Id:** 51798

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Obviously any controls on ORV beach use after so many years of almost unlimited use are a tough sell but I believe that it has to happen. I do not see that a beach permit system that charged up \$150.00 per year, or a short term fee of \$30.00 for two weeks would be too much. Breaks could be given for handicapped and those of limited income. Fees taken in would help to support Resource management efforts and the extra salaries involved.

Comment Text: I suggest using a tiered-permit system that would require annual renewal. Tiers could include categories for commercial fishing interests, sport club members (anglers, beach buggy associations), local individuals (defined as either NC residents or County residents), and visitors (all others). Fees could be tiered such that each category paid different fees or could be

priced for short duration use (someone visiting for a week's vacation) or for long duration (commercial fishing or sport club members who visit throughout the year). Permits could be issued as hangers for rear-view mirrors (allows moving to different vehicle) or as stickers for windshield. If permits are serially numbered then it would allow tracking of the vehicle should questions arise. Benefits of the permit system include generating revenue to fund additional NPS enforcement personnel or programs; maintains a database on vehicles being used on the beach; and provides an opportunity for NPS personnel to conduct rules and regulations awareness training as permits are issued. There is precedence for charging an entrance fee or selling permits. Other NPS facilities charge entrance fees (Yellowstone for example). A park-wide entrance pass called "America the Beautiful ? National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" is sold through the NPS website.

Correspondence Id: 1392 **Comment Id:** 54774

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I think permits with a month minimum would weed out some of the people who aren't fishermen (seniors fishermen=more likely to respect the beach). People who come in to drink and carouse over a weekend might be deterred.

AC1035 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Permitting System

28. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that a permitting system should not be implemented within the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43593

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I feel that there should be no type of permit, permit fee or access fee for ORV use in the CHNSRA.

Correspondence Id: 301 **Comment Id:** 55027

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: What will the impact be if I have to purchase a permit to drive at certain times? I won't be back for that either, if I have to buy a permit. I already have to buy one for fishing now, so it's just out of the question.

Correspondence Id: 368 **Comment Id:** 54811

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: As a Native North Carolinian and avid fisherman, I am absolutely opposed to more closures of our beaches to ORV use in NC. I am also opposed to partial closures and requiring more permits for access.

Correspondence Id: 2800 **Comment Id:** 52462

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am opposed to permits or fees to drive on beach.

Correspondence Id: 1234 **Comment Id:** 52191

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There shall be NO PERMITS and NO ACCESS FEES EVER.

29. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that they no longer visit other areas because of their permitting systems are not likely to visit the seashore if a permitting system was enforced.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 415 **Comment Id:** 55236

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: have also driven on the Delaware beaches, and had to pay an exorbitant fee for a permit that I failed to see any enforcement of the "active fishing" rule. So I no longer fish (nor do anything else)in Delaware, have made my decision known to the people I fish with, as well as the fishing forums on the web.

Correspondence Id: 1353 **Comment Id:** 52015

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I am absolutely against any kind of permit system for beach access, including four wheel drive or foot access. The seashore along the Outer Banks is as clean and pristine as any seacoast in the world, largely because of the easy access it provides. Limiting access through a permit system will discourage countless users and only achieve minimal results politically. An existing permit system for the Cape Cod National Seashore is in

place and I will tell you from personal experience that it has 100% turned me off from going there to enjoy all it has to offer as well.

AC1037 Alternative Concepts: Supporting Permitting System

30. CONCERT STATEMENT:

Commenters supported the concept of a permitting system at the beach, stating that charging fees for permits may encourage better behavior, would fund stricter law enforcement from the park, and would reduce traffic at the Seashore .

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2844 **Comment Id:** 54818
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: My recommendation is to enforce existing driving/behaving laws on the beach. Use a permit to generate revenues if necessary. The Coast Guard is very serious about enforcing laws on the water - let's use that example on the beach. The bad elements will decrease dramatically.

Correspondence Id: 2904 **Comment Id:** 56229
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Issue permits for driving on the beach.

Correspondence Id: 2877 **Comment Id:** 52858
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please help protect this site which has been excluded from protection for too long. Issuing permits, setting limits or restricting access to this area might help.

Correspondence Id: 2899 **Comment Id:** 53059
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Do the right thing, and limit it to "permit only" as other National Seashores.

Correspondence Id: 360 **Comment Id:** 55608
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: If this is not a viable solution, perhaps an ORV permit may help? People would have to register and pay for a permit, which might reduce the number of vehicles on the beach, if this is your primary concern.

AC1040 Alternative Concepts: Zoning System

31.CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested a zoning system that would separate pedestrians, certain recreational uses, vehicles, wildlife and wildlife habitat, with some commenters questioning the concept.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1323 **Comment Id:** 47107

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Cape Hatteras Seashore has approximately 50 miles of beach. If vehicles must stay with us, can we not share the beach??? Areas for pedestrians, areas for vehicles, maybe even areas for plant and animal species. Designate large areas in all villages for each. Pedestrians and drivers do not mix. Naturalists want to hear the ocean and birds, not car motors. Drivers want to get to the fish and do not want to slow down for pedestrians.

Correspondence Id: 1233 **Comment Id:** 52486

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The idea of establishing certain zones of usage needs to be carefully looked at. If a Family is in a "Fishing Zone" and the kids want to go swimming do they have to move to a "Swimming Zone"? If they want to go "Surfing" should they "Relocate" once more? Since the NPS already admits that they are under funded for enforcement, how will they enforce even more regulations?

Correspondence Id: 339 **Comment Id:** 52928

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The Zoning could be beneficial, if it could be done to lessen the congested areas that are prime for fishing, to reduce injury risk. Cape Point for instance is where a lot of fishing is done and is not a safe place for a lot of swimming. My idea would be to require a fishing license in that area and have fishing only zones marked.

Correspondence Id: 431 **Comment Id:** 53248

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 2. Pedestrian-only beach areas there needs to be consideration of maintaining pedestrian-only areas of beach for the safety of pedestrians, aesthetics, and the minimization of user conflict. Traditional pedestrian areas, beaches which have been closed to motor vehicle traffic since 1978 (specifically the Frisco village and Hatteras village beaches) should remain year round pedestrian beaches. Additionally, consideration needs to be given to the establishment of year-round pedestrian-only access directly in front of all the villages of Hatteras Island and other areas which experience heavy pedestrian usage i.e. the lighthouse beach in Buxton. Development and the sheer number of year- round pedestrians have dramatically increased since 1978, especially during the Thanksgiving and Spring-break seasons when ORV village traffic is currently permitted. Thus the 1978 village closure rules need to be amended to reflect these modern demographics.. All available data/surveys indicate that a majority of the visitors and non-resident property owners support this concept

Correspondence Id: 1236 **Comment Id:** 52561

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: If a zone system is to be developed it should start with unstressed prime habitat (i.e. "Vehicle-free habitats") to be monitored by experienced personnel for a minimum of three years before high stress activities such as ORV driving or other human activities that have been proven to be high stress activities (large groups of active humans remaining in an area, etc.) are permitted in an area. And if once a habitat is open to these high use activities, and endangered species are found at any time making use of these areas, and being negatively stressed, it should return to the "Vehicle-Free Habitat" (VFH) status.

AC1045 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Zoning System

32. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated opposition to implementing a zoning system at CAHA, indicating that the geographical layout and dynamic nature of the Seashore would make this difficult and it would prevent families from recreating together.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1342 **Comment Id:** 52052

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There have been many concepts proposed lately under the internal scoping process. Probably the worst is the "zoning" issue. Given the proximity of the villages, the distances involved to access much of the popular areas of the beach, zoning would be both impractical and impossible to enforce. Since the establishment of the Seashore Recreational Area in the early '50's, there has never been a beach area designated for only one specific recreational use (walking, in this instance).

Correspondence Id: 1328 **Comment Id:** 52073

Organization: Cape Hatteras Business Allies **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The idea of recreational zones is ridiculous! Many visitors and residents partake in several different types of activities and it is ludicrous to expect families to split up on the beach in order for each of them to enjoy their particular form of recreation! One of the major appeals that Cape Hatteras National Seashore has for visitors is the freedom to be able to recreate in various ways, such as swimming, fishing, surfing, shell seeking, sunbathing, walking (with or without the family pet), horseback riding, kite boarding, skim boarding, viewing nature and cultural resources, boating, bird watching, clamming, crabbing, campfires, star gazing etc. One should not have to travel all over the park in order to recreate in more than one fashion! This "zone" idea would actually create more ORV use! As it is now, folks generally pick a spot and stay put! Also, Mother Nature does not subscribe to zones. The fish, the surf and the birds cannot be made to stay in their "zones"! So how can one enjoy activities if the ingredients needed to enjoy that activity is now taking place in a new zone that was not designated for that use?

Correspondence Id: 2869 **Comment Id:** 52162

Organization: North Carolina Beach Buggy Association

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Dividing the beaches for various activities cannot work.

Correspondence Id: 1301 **Comment Id:** 55117

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The NPS proposed zoning system is rejected as impractical on these dynamic beaches. A typical recreational day would start with packing a picnic lunch, loading gear into the ORV and heading to the beach. Depending on weather and water quality any given beach would recommend itself for fishing or swimming or body surfing or boogie boarding or wading and shell collecting

or maybe just put out some chairs and read a book. Any one or multiple of these activities would be dictated by the beach conditions of the day and they may vary as the day goes on.

AC1047 Alternative Concepts: Support Zoning System

33. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated support for establishing a zoning system at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1337 **Comment Id:** 43800

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I believe in preserving access to the beaches as well as preserving the ecosystem that thrives there. Protection zones should be used for the benefit of wildlife and I believe that this can be done while maintaining access for fisherman and other recreational users. I believe in taking out what I take in, and usually I take away much more than I bring with me. The main point that I request is being fair and consistent in the establishment of the rules and in being open with the public for this process.

Correspondence Id: 2847 **Comment Id:** 54519

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The zoning system sounds good to me. If changes are beneficial to our island people will adapt.

AC1050 Alternative Concepts: Percentage System

34. CONCERN STATEMENT:

One commenter suggested that this system be implemented, but only when the listed species at the Seashore are no longer federally listed.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1236 **Comment Id:** 52562

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: ORV access based on percentages might be initiated once the endangered species have been removed from the endangered species list. This method would then ensure habitat protection for the species and allow high stress human actions on the maximum habitat allowable. This would keep the NPS from

being threatened with legal actions for not upholding legal natural resource protection mandates.

AC1055 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Percentage System

35. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced opposition for a percentage system, stating that it would be logistically difficult because of the dynamic nature of the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1301 **Comment Id:** 55118

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Percentage Access System: This proposal is also rejected in favor of the multiple use system. Establishment and continual adjustment of this percentage system on our dynamic shore line would be a logistical nightmare.

Correspondence Id: 340 **Comment Id:** 55712

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Regarding some sort of Percentage System, the dynamics of the beach changing would make this very difficult if not impossible to keep current. The good waves would move down the beach and the surfers would want to move and the good fishing hole would close and the new one opened would be inaccessible because it is not in the percentage area. By the time areas are changed the beach will have changed again negating the area change. Again I have not seen user conflict that would justify such a system.

AC1065 Alternative Concepts: Oppose No Additional Funding

36. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced opposition for no additional funding, stating that there needs to be additional staff to enforce regulations.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1347 **Comment Id:** 43765

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Ask that there be adequate funding and staff to enforce regulations already in place.

Correspondence Id: 2827 **Comment Id:** 52252

36

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Operating such a large park on less than a skeleton crew has led to little or no enforcement on fires, fireworks, dogs, etc. We need enough staff to handle the mileage and number of visitors.

AC1070 Alternative Concepts: Maintain Current Open ORV Access

37. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that ORV access at the Seashore be maintained, recommending that ramps and parking be added, resource closures be reduced, trails maintained, the pole road restored, and alternative routes established as needed. One commenter suggested that since Pea Island was closed, the remaining areas of the Seashore should be open to ORV access.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 293 **Comment Id:** 54768

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Therefore, in order to preserve the recreational opportunities for the largest percentage of the population, preservation of vehicular access is necessary to the maximum extent possible. Specifically, I believe that the maximum number of ramps be kept open, so that traffic, and beach visitor density can be spread out along the entire length of the beach. Parking should also be provided at the maximum number of ramps, so that those without off-road vehicles can still have widespread pedestrian access to the maximum percentage of the beach.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55292

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: In summary, I would like to see things remain sort of like they are now with smaller enclosure areas for the birds and increased facility availability and resources.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53218

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am opposed to any ORV management plan that provides for the permanent closure of any beach within the Park. All beaches (Sound Side and Ocean Side) of the Park should be opened for ORV use based upon the management plan as adopted. There will be times when certain beaches must be closed.

(Weather, Seasonal, T & E species). One exception that we will all have to live with: Pea Island. To overcome the environmental concerns of allowing ORV use within the refuge would be difficult to say the least. So, to be practical, the ORV plan would state that Pea Island was permanently closed to ORV use. Perhaps I'm "throwing in the towel" too fast. Perhaps I should "hold out", maintaining that Pea Island be opened to ORV use. But, I believe this is not realistic. As long as it is designated as a wildlife refuge, the ORV plan would permanently close Pea Island for ORV use. All other beaches, (Sound and ocean side) should be open for ORV use subject to the provisions of the plan.

Correspondence Id: 1195 **Comment Id:** 52236
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see the pole road to Hatteras inlet/false point maintained for access. Sometimes high tides block access via the beach and the pole road is a great alternate route to the beaches around the inlet

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43595
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: ALL ramps should be open 24 hours a day and there should be no restrictions to hours or time of usage of the beaches by ORV.

Correspondence Id: 1342 **Comment Id:** 52056
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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Comment Text: The Seashore should build & maintain ORV trails on the landward side of the dunes. This will allow for a route to bypass any nesting-resource-safety closures in place on the beach and would allow easier access to the beach by emergency services;

Correspondence Id: 1377 **Comment Id:** 42331
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: When conditions require the closing of access routes to popular surf fishing spots such as Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet, alternative routes should be emplaced to give access.

AC1070 Alternative Concepts: Support Maintaining Current Open ORV Access

38. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced support for maintaining the current level of open access at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 202 **Comment Id:** 39643

Organization: NCBBA,FFV,OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Please keep all our beaches and the Outer Banks open for all to enjoy.

Correspondence Id: 1318 **Comment Id:** 48312

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Free and open access to all existing areas

Correspondence Id: 1354 **Comment Id:** 47093

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: We also believe that the beaches should remain open to the public, since it is really ours to use.

Correspondence Id: 1098 **Comment Id:** 51858

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please keep the beach access open for responsible tax paying citizens. Do not let the foolish actions of the few dictate the policy that is being voted upon.

Correspondence Id: 1260 **Comment Id:** 51779

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I and my family are in favor of and request in the strongest possible terms that the beaches of Cape Hatteras remain open for recreation. We are in favor of being able to drive on the beach, fishing from the beach and being able to just walk on the beach for personal recreation. Please keep the beaches open.

Correspondence Id: 347 **Comment Id:** 55431

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am asking that the ORV plan should most certainly include the continued use of ORV's. It is what has made

the Park what it is today and there is certainly room for this activity to continue.

Correspondence Id: 286 **Comment Id:** 55418
Organization: NC Beach Buggy **Organization Type:** Individual
Comment Text: Let us keep our beaches open to ORV use.

Correspondence Id: 352 **Comment Id:** 55222
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: I want to state that I am in favor of ORV access to the National Seashore.

Correspondence Id: 549 **Comment Id:** 55195
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Being able to use those beaches has been one of the great joys of my life, and I ask that you do what is in your power to preserve our right to use the beaches in the park system, for as long as it exists.

Correspondence Id: 418 **Comment Id:** 55030
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: We feel Hatteras beaches should remain open to vehicular traffic. Please consider my thoughts with regards to this ruling and allow us to continue to use, enjoy, and drive on your beautiful beaches.

39. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that ORV access should be maintained because any reduction or limitations would negatively impact the economy.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1334 **Comment Id:** 43782
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Please keep the beaches open to Off Road Vehicles so as to economically support a unique coastal community in the Outer Banks.

Correspondence Id: 2925 **Comment Id:** 53888
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: For the economy and stability of the towns and townspeople of the Outer Banks, it is essential that ORV access remains open and free to visitors.

Correspondence Id: 278 **Comment Id:** 53303

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Restricting my access to the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore would eliminate my desire to come to Cape Hatteras, and that of my friends and family, which would have a very definite negative impact on the economy and future of Cape Hatteras. Please, leave the beaches accessible to all for years to come.

Correspondence Id: 2822 **Comment Id:** 52667

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am a homeowner in Waves to which I plan to semi-retire shortly with the anticipation of being able to surf-fish with ORV access essential to that goal. Not only would closing the beaches to ORV access devastate the local economy on Hatteras Island but any move in that direction would be a personal tragedy to those of us who have worked hard and paid our taxes all our lives so that one day we could live here. My vote and that of my wife is for reasonable open ORV access.

40. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that current ORV access levels be maintained, and in some cases expanded.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1292 **Comment Id:** 51370

Organization: NCBBA **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke Island National Seashore for Recreation is just that, it for Recreational Use. Current conditions and rules in effect now should not be changed except to allow more access to the Sea Shore, on foot, ORV or Horse. It makes no sense to close off a National Recreational Sea Shore when steps can be taken to move and protect endangered species. Civilian Tax payer money provides for the Recreational Sea Shore and therefore we the people who pay such taxes should be allowed Access by any means.

Correspondence Id: 1346 **Comment Id:** 52017

Organization: NCBBA **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: As numbers of visitors to Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands increase, so must the beach access points. Keep existing ramps open and consider re-opening those closed in recent years.

Correspondence Id: 1235 **Comment Id:** 52186

Organization: OBPA/NCBBA **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: We feel that the tradition of beach driving at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area should be continued with the possibility of increasing access to the Pea Island beaches. If it were opened partially to ORV usage this may take some of the pressure of some of the more popular areas.

41. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that current ORV access be maintained to be able to access the recreational resources at the Seashore. Commenters stated that access could be maintained, while providing for protection of resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1308 **Comment Id:** 51719

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am in favor of continued use of ORV access. Access is the key to being able to fish the waters on the islands and should continue to be available to the public. Surf fishing brings income to all the islands where ORV can access beaches. Many fishermen will stop going fishing causing loss in income to local businesses as well as a decline in saltwater fishing licenses. I hope to continue to have the privilege of fishing on the islands with the use of a motor vehicle.

Correspondence Id: 1332 **Comment Id:** 43826

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I totally support free and open access to this Recreational Area. Not once in my 30 plus years of enjoying the seashore have I witnessed the deliberate destruction of any wildlife or its natural resources. Every one of the people I've met over the many years of enjoying the seashore has expressed the same attitude as I am. Did not matter if they were walkers, joggers, birders, swimmers, surfers etc. Most of these same folks use some type of ORV for access to this paradise.

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Correspondence Id: 338 **Comment Id:** 54761

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The minimal impact of the off-road vehicles to the beaches and animal life surrounding these areas can be easily managed with no additional cost to the park service. The current restrictions provide a solid benchmark for ensuring that future generations of wildlife will flourish and that humans will be able to enjoy it.

Correspondence Id: 442 **Comment Id:** 54755

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The beaches should remain open for off-road vehicles and all the visitors who enjoy walking the beaches, swimming, shelling, and fishing. Families have been going there for years to enjoy what the beaches have to offer and I firmly support open-beach access on the Outer Banks.

Correspondence Id: 2329 **Comment Id:** 54222

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It seems the last year or so, a sufficient balance has been worked out using beach closures when necessary to protect certain wildlife, while still allowing the greatest degree of public access to our beaches. It seems to me that a workable solution, not too unlike the situation that we have now, could be agreed upon by all parties involved. It seems that over the years less and less of our park has been available to ORV's (and the public as a whole) while more and more people have started to enjoy the park. I respectfully request that you and the NPS do all in their power to continue to allow ORV access to what the Park Service itself deemed first and foremost a public "Recreation Area".

Correspondence Id: 2943 **Comment Id:** 54113

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please consider leaving Cape Hatteras access as is for one of the last places fishing is accessible by vehicle. I truly respect nature in its original form and would follow any reasonable driving rule to keep access.

Correspondence Id: 2881 **Comment Id:** 53568

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There is more than enough habitat at the seashore for these nestings to take place. I have been out there numerous times with other members and have never once witnessed anyone in an off-road vehicle doing anything that would harm any wildlife. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is very vast with more than enough room for man and nature to co-exist which is a very beautiful thing... I strongly urge you to keep Cape Hatteras National Seashore's plan the same as it always has been; free and open to all regardless of foot or off road vehicle.

Correspondence Id: 126 **Comment Id:** 52870

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Certainly the dunes, wildlife and birds need protection. That does NOT require that the beaches should be closed to ORVs. Please do everything in your power to maintain this privilege for all.

Correspondence Id: 464 **Comment Id:** 52558

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: It is my sincerest wish to be able to continue having access to this great resource in the future. I am confident that a plan can be developed that will preserve access to the beaches as well and provide protection to the species in question

42. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that current ORV access be maintained to be because that is how visitors are able to enjoy the natural resources at the Seashore. Commenters further stated that many ORV users are respectful of the environment and use their vehicles to be able to appreciate the environment.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1179 **Comment Id:** 51848

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please bear in mind that most of us that drive on the beach are there out of great love and respect for the surrounding environment. We understand that laws to protect the dunes and beaches from erosion must be in place. Taking away the beach driving is certainly not the answer. Perhaps more visible beach patrols would help for those few who cause problems. Most of us cannot afford beach front homes and for people in my family who are handicapped and/or elderly, driving on the beach works

well for them. This matter is so important to many citizens, please continue to allow ORV access at the shore.

Correspondence Id: 337 **Comment Id:** 55015

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I am in favor of reasonable and responsible beach ORV access. We have always respected the resource and have always left the beach as pristine as we found it.

Correspondence Id: 430 **Comment Id:** 54609

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I think that we can continue to share the resources of this very unique environment. I would hate to think that we may not be able to enjoy a star filled night at the point watching shooting stars go by.

Correspondence Id: 376 **Comment Id:** 54521

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I AM IN FAVOR FOR CONTINUED ORV ACCESS TO THE SEASHORE.THERE ARE NOT MANY PLACES TO GET OUT AND ENJOY THE NATURE LIKE THE WAY YOU CAN ON THE OUTER BANKS.WITHOUT ORV USE IT WOULD BE VERY HARD.MY WIFE, MY SON,AND MYSELF LOVE TO VISIT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AND IT WOULD BREAK OUR HEARTS TO SEE ORV USE BAND FROM THE SEASHORE....PLEASSSSS DONT BREAK OUR HEARTS

Correspondence Id: 446 **Comment Id:** 54122

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: My daughter and I are very responsible outdoorsmen and always leave as little an impact on the areas we visit as possible, even going so far as policing areas for other peoples trash so that other people can enjoy them as we found them. Please keep our access open and free, after all, this is America.

Correspondence Id: 152 **Comment Id:** 53046

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please make every effort within your purview to keep access to the beaches open to all of us. It would be a tragic

shame to have such a tremendous natural resource be restricted to those of us who really appreciate it and to future generations who may never get the opportunity to experience the Outer Banks.

43. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that current ORV access be maintained because it is a traditional use at the Seashore that should be available for future generations.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1283 **Comment Id:** 51743

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I implore you to leave things as they are. I want my children and their children to be able to drive on the beaches of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands just as I have all these years. I do understand that changes have to be made but please hear the words of the "common people" not just the special interests that have no idea how truly beautiful and special the CHNS is. I live about 2 hours from the beaches here in DE and MD, but I choose to drive 8 hours to the beaches in NC so I can drive to wherever I choose to go. If I lose that, I seriously doubt I will come to the CHNS any longer. That in my opinion will be a shame. Please don't take my favorite vacation place in the world away from me.

Correspondence Id: 382 **Comment Id:** 54577

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Many a young man has been introduced to the wonders of the great outdoors and its majestic beauty by the use of ORV's. Please, don't take this means of access away from us and others who have a deep love of these pristine coastal areas.

Correspondence Id: 2945 **Comment Id:** 54458

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I want to begin by stating that I firmly oppose any changes to the current system for Off-road vehicle (ORV) access within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I was disappointed when reading that steps were being taken to possibly "analyze" the present system of access. ORV access is one of the charismatic features of the Outer Banks and traditionally has attracted visitors from all over the Mid-Atlantic region for more than the last 50 years. While other activities must receive support from the park it

must be realized that fishing is a large percentage of use, particularly in the spring, winter and fall.

Correspondence Id: 408 **Comment Id:** 54213

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Hi there I just wanted to take a few minute & give my opinion on beach access at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I feel that keeping the beaches open & free (no seasonal license to access) to off road vehicle use is a very important issue. Being able to drive the beaches is one of the many things that make the outer banks unique. My wife & I have been coming there for almost 7 yrs now together & she has been visiting with her parents since the 1960's but if we loose the ability to drive the beaches then we most likely will find a new place to vacation. Since it will no longer be that special place where you can drive & find a private section of beach. So please do all you can to keep things as they are as they have been.

Correspondence Id: 388 **Comment Id:** 54165

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would love to see the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore kept open for vehicular access. It is how it was intended to be used when first protected...my family feels it would be a big mistake, and a huge loss, for all of America, to close the area for vehicular access.

Correspondence Id: 150 **Comment Id:** 53081

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Our access to the beaches on the Outer Banks of North Carolina is a tradition that we as a family have maintained for generations. Keep the beaches open for ORV use.

Correspondence Id: 396 **Comment Id:** 52910

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please see fit to keep my beach open for ORV's so that my way of life, the way of life for thousands of my fellow surf fisherman and the well being of the people who live and work there have a place to recreate and live.

AC2000 Alternative Concepts: Seasonal Restrictions

44. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested implementing seasonal closures based on breeding and nesting seasons for birds and turtles, in order to ensure protection of these species. Some commenters suggested dates these restrictions should take place, as well as the possible extent of the restrictions.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1360 **Comment Id:** 42455

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way. Turtles in particular reproduce slowly and of course can't get out of the way of a motorized vehicle.

Correspondence Id: 719 **Comment Id:** 52414

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way.

Correspondence Id: 271 **Comment Id:** 53315

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The most critical breeding period for the animals is between April and September, and I ask you to curtail the ORV use during this time. I wish to remind you that "the fundamental purpose [of the NPS] is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment for the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Work by NC Audubon Society on Lea/Hutaff has shown that you can have both: allow limited and regulated beach access, and these limitations very much help the plants and animals survive and reproduce. It's a compromise that reasonable people accept.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55454

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

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Comment Text: 1. Close with symbolic fencing (posts, string, closure signs) all suitable nesting habitats at nesting sites that have been used in the past 10 years, with appropriate buffer distances (see Table 6), from April 1st to September 14 or until the last chick has fledged and departed the area. These areas would include: Bodie Island spit, Cape Point, South Beach at Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet Spit, Ocracoke Inlet spit, and the north end of Ocracoke at Hatteras Inlet. 2. Monitor all other sites where habitat is suitable for nesting terns and skimmers (see Erwin 2005) and close these areas with symbolic fencing and appropriate buffer distances immediately upon observing courtship activity, territorial behavior, or scrapes. Closures should remain in effect until September 11 or until when the last chick has fledged and departed the area. 3. A narrow pedestrian corridor could be allowed at the mean high tide line for the purposes of fishing or passive recreation (walking, sunbathing, etc.) during daylight hours as long as nesting birds were not within 180m for Common Terns and Black Skimmers, or 100m for Least Terns. Dogs and active recreation activity (kite flying, ball or Frisbee throwing/games, fireworks, other games) should not be allowed in the pedestrian corridor. If deliberate acts of disturbance or harassment of birds, or vandalism are observed, the area should be closed entirely for the remainder of the nesting season.

Correspondence Id: 2834 **Comment Id:** 54797

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: 6) Open full access to all beaches during fall and winter months after the birds and turtles have moved on.

Correspondence Id: 2955 **Comment Id:** 54787

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Permanent year round sections of the seashore that is open to pedestrians but not ORVs. No ORV access during critical breeding season for wildlife. Change the high use visitor season to March 15 through Jan 1. This would address the increase visitor use during the now longer shoulder seasons.

Correspondence Id: 728 **Comment Id:** 54662

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: We need balance between off-road vehicle access and the protection of wild land values; species protection and non-motorized recreation. For example, animal nesting periods are relatively brief, but highly vulnerable windows of opportunity.

Disrupting those causes disproportionate damage to the continuation of species. During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way. It's all about balance -- must humans have 24/7, 365-day access to drive on beaches? What is the necessity? For those of us who enjoy walking on beaches and watching wildlife, off-road vehicle users disrupt our right to do so. Let's give the little critters a grace period to allow them to nest, hatch, and continue their species.

Correspondence Id: 2906 **Comment Id:** 55465

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Species of native wildlife that are listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act, such as the piping plover, must be protected from "harm" and their critical habitat protected for their use, if necessary to the exclusion of other uses. During critical nesting periods for birds and turtles, the beach should be off-limits to off-road vehicles to ensure the birds are able to nest and fledge without putting them in harm's way.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55464

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: We urge the Seashore to implement the following protection measures to protect nesting Piping Plovers within the Seashore: 1. Close with symbolic fencing (posts, string, closure signs) all suitable nesting habitats and associated foraging habitats at nesting sites that have been used in the past 10 years. The area should be closed from March 15th to September 1d or until the last chick has fledged and departed the area. This would include Bodie Island spit, Cape Point, South Beach, Hatteras spit, northern Ocracoke Island at Hatteras Inlet and southern Ocracoke Island near Ocracoke Inlet. 2. All sound side intertidal areas, wet sand flats, mud flats, and the margins of ephemeral pools or ponds associated with Bodie Island spit, Cape Point, Hatteras spit, northern Ocracoke Island (if such habitat becomes available on the spit that is growing on the sandbar in the inlet that is approaching Ocracoke) and southern Ocracoke Island should be closed to all recreation activity.

45. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested implementing seasonal closures based recreation and visitor use patterns. Suggested alternative elements included consistent enforcement in all seasons, basing access on

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when the most recreation use occurs, when closures should take place in front of the villages, and removal of some of the closures in front of villages.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id:1323 **Comment Id:** 47109

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: These rules and regulations need to be in effect all year round. Period. No seasons. NPS needs to be consistent. There are visitors and residents all year. A closed area is a closed area all year. Consistency eliminates problems

Correspondence Id: 2868 **Comment Id:** 52169

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Seasonality of ORV Traffic - The EIS should address seasonal variations in ORV-based fishing. Are there certain months that are favored by the fishing community? In the past, it seems fishing was considered of equal interest all year round. Perhaps there are months when a closure would affect fewer ORV users but would help wildlife and other visitors.

Correspondence Id: 1022 **Comment Id:** 52255

Organization: OBPA, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see the access that ORV's have at this point maintained and would like to have the seasonally closed beaches opened when they are supposed to be (Sept-April).

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53216

Organization: OBPA, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: · Seasonal Closures: I believe all beaches within ½ mile of each Village (a boundary of ½ mile on the North end and South end of each Village) should be closed beginning the Monday immediately preceding Memorial Day and re-opened on the Monday following Labor Day. Since both holidays are now federal holidays that always fall on a Monday, this has the effect of opening and closing the beach 7 days before and after the respective holiday. The obvious reason for seasonal closures is one of safety. · Weather Related Closures: Storms and unusually high tides can make ORV use hazardous. When icing occurs in my part of the state, the highway patrol issues warnings and in some extreme cases the roads are closed. The same sense of reasoning

and public awareness should be used for certain weather conditions within the Park. For example, if the Island were evacuated due to Hurricane warnings, the plan would call for a closing of all beaches to ORV use. If unusually high tides overcome a particular ramp, the ramp would be closed until safe access is possible. If unusual high tides are eroding the beach at the high dune, warnings will be posted, when possible. · Protected Species Management: This is a difficult issue. It is hard to understand why a few birds can cause an entire beach to be closed. I commend the Park Service for your recent efforts in communicating the need to protect certain species as well as developing alternative access methods where possible during breeding times. The ORV plan must identify which species are to be protected and how they will be protected. For example, turtle nesting areas have been identified by your staff and property roped off to prevent un-intended damage to the nest. It is my understanding that the same type of protection has been successfully done for the Piping Plover.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53171

Organization: OBPA, NCBBA **Organization Type:**

Individual

Comment Text: 2) Seasonal Closures ? Should be mandated per rental season in front of the villages or when deemed necessary by NPS. However, re-opening of these areas should also occur once tourist season is over (especially in front of the villages). Typically, as I understand, the tourist season is from Memorial Day weekend ? Labor Day weekend. As for temporary closures for other reasons (turtle nesting, bird nesting, etc.), NPS should have the final say. That said common sense should be one of the primary factors. Closing an area that is not in close proximity to a sensitive area should remain open. Again, NPS needs to be the lead in this determination and I can't stress enough NPS needs to be the lead. Closed areas should be re-evaluated on a timely basis and if deemed safe should be re-opened.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53171

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated

Individual

Comment Text: April, June and September-November 30 are prime fishing times summer people are probably doing more other activities, fishermen could put up with some restrictions in the summer but restrictions for critters that don't show up doesn't make sense-haven't seen any piping plovers.

Correspondence Id: 1405 **Comment Id:** 55035

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated

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Individual

Comment Text: Seasonal Closures - should be mandated per rental season in front of the villages or when deemed necessary by NPS. However, re-opening of these areas should also occur once tourist season is over (especially in front of the villages).

Typically, as I understand, the tourist season is roughly mid May - Labor Day weekend. As for temporary closures for other reasons (turtle nesting, bird nesting, etc.), NPS should have the final say. That said common sense should be one of the primary factors. Closing an area that is not in close proximity to a sensitive area should remain open.

Correspondence Id: 2904 **Comment Id:** 56227

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Initiate a longer high use season, March 15 through Jan 1. This would address the increase visitor use during the now longer shoulder seasons, extending protection to other users

Correspondence Id: 2918 **Comment Id:** 56186

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I recommend 1. Those seasonal closures in front of the villages are maintained from May 1 through September 30 (in-season), and 2. That during the off-season (October 1 through April 30), seasonal closures be re-opened. As I will demonstrate below, the above-stated recommendation provides for the preservation of visitor safety and will enhance visitor use and experience of the off-season park user. Furthermore, I will demonstrate the failure to re-open seasonally closed beaches may have significant negative impact on the local economy. DISCUSSION Park visitation during the period of May 1 through September 30 (in-season) is significantly higher than during the remainder of the year. Furthermore, the concentration of multi-family rentals and the resulting high pedestrian usage in front of the villages dictates that, as a matter of safety, the beaches in front of the villages is closed to ORVs during the period of May 1 through September 30.

46. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that seasonal closures be brief and suggested that these closures should reopen as soon as possible once they are no longer needed.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1377 **Comment Id:** 42330

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Temporary closures of ramps and beaches due to erosion, bird-nesting etc. are as brief as possible. Conditions which warrant the closing should be monitored closely and ramps/beaches reopened as soon as those no longer exist.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53215

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Beach Closures, Re-Openings. The ORV management plan should provide clear guidelines that will enable personnel (under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore) to determine when a beach should be closed and when it can be re-opened. Guidelines within the plan would include: · Weather conditions. · Safety concerns. · Foot traffic on the beach. (In front of villages, during season for example). · Protected species management.

AC2100 Alternative Concepts: Support Seasonal Restrictions

47. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated support or understanding for why seasonal closures occur at the Seashore, related to protected species.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 259 **Comment Id:** 55568

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I have no problems with closures for breeding, nesting or seasonal closures but given the area involved I can see no reason why FREE and OPEN ACCESS for ALL cannot be accommodated.

Correspondence Id: 2925 **Comment Id:** 53893

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Seasonal closures are acceptable, and I have dealt with them because I understand why the closures are there.

Correspondence Id: 667 **Comment Id:** 52509

Organization: DAWN **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Other areas, both parks and beaches, close during nesting times; so should Hatteras

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48. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated opposition to any seasonal restrictions at the Seashore. Commenters felt that these closures were not necessary and any seasonal closures implemented should be kept to a minimum.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43602
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I do not think there should be ANY seasonal or safety closures of the beaches of the CHNSRA.

Correspondence Id: 414 **Comment Id:** 54612
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The issue of closure for nesting is in my option using a bomb to slay an ant. I do not think that we as a group threaten these animals. Knowing the aggressive nature of the Raccoon , the larger variety Gull, and the other critters such as cats, foxes etc would in my option put greater strain on the survival of the chicks than a 4x4 truck.

Correspondence Id: 1358 **Comment Id:** 55052
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The NPS should be vigilant to preserve practical public access to ALL beaches absent actual and supportable public safety considerations supporting closure to vehicular access. Seasonal closures to any particular form of access should be minimal in both extent and duration. This principle should be applied to management of all closures, whether based on either safety or resource management factors. Management policies should maximize public access via all practical means, by all user groups, as a matter of equity and civil right. The very word "closure" should be synonymous with abhorrent failure to any responsible Federal resource steward or Manager.

Correspondence Id: 2829 **Comment Id:** 52470
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I understand there is some consideration for seasonal closures. I am opposed to this, because the closures initially would probably be for a short time, but history teaches us

that similar processes tend to become longer and more involved.
Example - the plover controversy.

AC2200 Alternative Concepts: Nighttime Restrictions

49. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that nighttime use at the Seashore is low and there is no available data on which to base a nighttime ban. Further, commenters provided examples of nighttime uses they would like to see at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2856 **Comment Id:** 51991

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Night Driving: There is no factual data to substantiate a ban on night driving. Brief appearance of headlights has minimal impact on beach compared to unregulated village and pier lighting. Beach front "cottages" are ablaze with lights and much of the turtle hatchling "light" problem would be eliminated by use of a tight key whole configuration of black plastic screening. This would also help to control ghost crab predation.

Correspondence Id: 2856 **Comment Id:** 51991

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I've been told that the park is preparing to attempt a study/ count of nighttime ORV use of the beaches. At sunset there is a near frantic evacuation of the ORV-use beaches. Few visitors are at ease with the darkness of a beach. The actual nighttime numbers of ORV users is low, even in the most popular areas of the Point.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55278

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see some areas set aside and designated for fishermen and the like to be able to rest / sleep in their vehicles. This is not camping. Many times I have arrived late and cannot get a campsite nor are the National Park Campgrounds even open. An area in which to park and not be approached by the NPS Officers would be a blessing.

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AC2250 Alternative Concepts: Support Nighttime Restrictions

50. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced support for nighttime restrictions, stating that they are necessary for species protection.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1220 **Comment Id:** 52224

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: No vehicles on the beach at night between April and November to protect all stages of sea turtle nesting activities.

Correspondence Id: 2813 **Comment Id:** 52269

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please close your beaches off to driving. If not able to close them all day & evening during the turtle season, then at least the evenings.

Correspondence Id: 1393 **Comment Id:** 54772

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The remaining beach areas should be divided into two roughly equal portions 1. An area restricted to non motorized uses 2. An area open to most uses including motorized beach driving subject to suitable restrictions ? No driving on vegetation areas or on dunes ? No speeding ? No driving between sunset and sunrise.

Correspondence Id: 2904 **Comment Id:** 56235

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Limit nighttime driving during bird and turtle nesting season.

AC2260 Alternative Concepts: Oppose Nighttime Restrictions

51. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced opposition for nighttime restrictions, stating that this is against the intent of the Seashore and would unnecessarily limit recreational opportunities, specifically fishing and stargazing.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1282 **Comment Id:** 51767

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: NO BEACH CLOSURES AT NIGHT!!!!

Correspondence Id: 340 **Comment Id:** 55713

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Regarding restricting night driving, unless that is required by law for wildlife it should not be done. And I reiterate any such restriction should be secondary to the recreational intent of the Seashore and required by law not "expert opinion" or policy.

Correspondence Id: 289 **Comment Id:** 55400

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I hope that this rule making process will produce a balanced compromise that protects the wildlife while still allowing ORV access. I believe that ORV's should be allowed access 24 hours a day for those of us who fish at night, or just want to look at the stars.

Correspondence Id: 1346 **Comment Id:** 52021

Organization: Cape Hatteras Angler's Club & OBPA

Organization Type: Individual

Comment Text: DO NOT prohibit beach access during those times of the day/night known to be the most productive fishing times (dawn and dusk). Prohibiting beach access until after 7 or 8:00 A.M. is not reasonable.

Correspondence Id: 1343 **Comment Id:** 52036

Organization: NCBBA, OPBA, RFA & CHAC **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Do not put night time driving restrictions in place. The opportunity to gain access to the Park twenty-four hours a day allows for family activities the entire day. Star gazing is most enjoyable. My family and I enjoy night time fishing as well.

Correspondence Id: 1376 **Comment Id:** 52001

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Regarding nighttime access...popular and highly sought after fish species such as striped bass and red drum [the North Carolina State Fish]are commonly pursued at night -- it is imperative and very reasonable that free and open night access to all of the areas where these fish are pursued, is maintained.

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AC2270 Alternative Concepts: Additional Amenities**52. CONCERN STATEMENT:**

Commenters asked that the ORV plan/EIS provide for additional amenities to Seashore users including: trash receptacles/dumpsters; restrooms/port-o-johns; fish cleaning tables; solar powered air-tanks at ramps; installation of additional access ramps and better maintenance of existing ramps; ramp number and mile marker signs; new and/or improved signage including identifying emergency contacts and the ferry schedule; more parking areas and pedestrian access; an RV dumping station; campground improvements; use of an alternate transportation system such as a bus system; more public boat ramps; life guards; a bike path; and more ranger patrols.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43596

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There should be trash receptacles, "porta-potties", fish cleaning tables and solar-powered air tanks at ALL ramps.

Correspondence Id: 1342 **Comment Id:** 52057

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Construct & maintain additional ORV and pedestrian ramps from NC 12 to both the ocean & soundside beach; 3. Erect & maintain toilet facilities at all ramps & fish-cleaning tables/air pump equipment at the more popularly used ramp locations. Establish trash receptacles (dumpsters) at ALL ramp locations; 4. Replace Carsonite posts with standard NPS signage on 2X2 stakes both on the beach & elsewhere within the Seashore. Provide ramp number and mile-marker signage on the beach in locations appropriate to each sign;

Correspondence Id: 1328 **Comment Id:** 52071

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: We need more bathroom facilities, trash receptacles, showers, ocean and soundside ORV ramps, air stations as well as more walkover ramps from the highway, for those who do not drive ORV's. We need established ORV trails in front of and behind the dunes as well as on the soundside, in order to provide sufficient areas in which to recreate! These trails will also assist in creating a more efficient emergency response, on and off

of the beaches! Safety can be better served by ORV use than without it!

Correspondence Id: 1234 **Comment Id:** 52118

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Access ramps should be maintained by the park service. Trash cans and Out House facilities should be maintained at each ramp.

Correspondence Id: 1220 **Comment Id:** 52226

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Establish more parking areas to accommodate vehicle-free beach and soundside recreation.

Correspondence Id: 2827 **Comment Id:** 52251

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Ramp parking near villages needs to be doubles in size and toilets added. As numbers of houses increase we have no access in villages and very little near villages, thus forcing many visitors to drive onto the beaches for access. We also need handicap access for the elderly and disabled.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55288

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see fish cleaning stations at each ramp or at least where there is available fresh water access.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55287

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Dumpsters at each ramp would be nice so we can dispose of our trash when leaving the beach.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55284

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: In addition, I would like to see the RV Sanitary Dumping Station open year round.

Correspondence Id: 1395 **Comment Id:** 55176

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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Comment Text: Use bussing system and bus in fishermen Boat in fishermen if they are truly so concerned with people with disabilities then provide a disability van.

Correspondence Id: 1395 **Comment Id:** 55176

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: More public access walk over areas with parking lots should be added for those who choose not to drive on the beach. This could actually cut the number of vehicles on the beach. More public boat ramps should be added.

Correspondence Id: 1301 **Comment Id:** 55116

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Salvo Campground: This unit has been under utilized and needs to be developed for the expected future increase in visitation. Bayside campgrounds have proven popular in other areas when extensive boating ramps were included. Additional restrooms and showers would be necessary. If boat launch facilities are developed elsewhere on the island the sound side waterfront should be further developed for increased bathing and water board sport beaches. There is adequate land area in Salvo to construct a first class turtle incubation laboratory. With the rise in cost of village rentals it is very important to maintain attractive facilities and ample accommodations for low cost camping in CHNSRA.

Correspondence Id: 2904 **Comment Id:** 56230

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Implement shuttle systems for hard to reach areas during temporary resource protection closures.

Correspondence Id: 2918 **Comment Id:** 56192

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I recommend that the park 1. Ensure that all parking lots include walkways, rest room facilities, and waste containers, 2. Ensure that all ramps provide for ample parking, and 3. Provide for a minimum of three parking lots on Pea Island.

Correspondence Id: 2918 **Comment Id:** 56190

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I recommend that the park 1. Retain Pea Island as a vehicle free beach with no ORV ramps, 2. Maintain the existing

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16 ocean side ORV ramps, and 3. Add the following ramps: a. one at the site of the One-way Road b. one Frisco Bathhouse, and c. one between ramp 59 and ramp 67. My recommendations for additional ramps are designed to address situations where existing ramps are more than 3-4 miles apart.

Correspondence Id: 364 **Comment Id:** 55675

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would like the following to be considered. I would like to see some air fill stations along Hwy 12 from Avon to the South Point.

Correspondence Id: 327 **Comment Id:** 55673

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Establishment of portable bathroom facilities, fish cleaning tables, and air compressors may be a good idea for certain ramps. However, I'm concerned that the placement of such facilities would be too disruptive to the natural habitat.

Correspondence Id: 427 **Comment Id:** 55652

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see the park reassert its authority and do the job it was established to do. In the future I would like to see more beaches closed year round to vehicles, more walking trails, lifeguards at more of our beaches in the summer, a bike path the length of the island, and in general more promotion of non-vehicle recreational alternatives.

Correspondence Id: 1388 **Comment Id:** 55314

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: ORU Mgmt plan needs to provide adequate rangers 24/7 Dumpsters/trash receipts at all access points also bathrooms provide more new ramps and access roads\ improve maintain existing ramps Rebuild berm ramp 43 north adjacent/parking lot Rebuild Pole Road Construct bi-pass or back roads around habitat areas Install fish cleaning stations at ramp 55 area Would like to see campground remain open-maybe to December provide ramp amenities-restrooms, dumpsters, air pumps, fish cleaning stations.

Correspondence Id: 2916 **Comment Id:** 55110

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated

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Individual

Comment Text: If only the NPS had funding to build a walkway near ramp 44 similar to the one between Avon and Salvo. The only current way for a pedestrian to reach ramp 44 is by a deep, sandy track that is utilized by ORV's. There used to be a man-made ridge of hard-packed sand that connected the ponds at 43 with the dune at 44. It made for easier walking from car to ramp. Alas, most of that ridge was removed several years ago. The wished-for walkway could end with an observation platform that would be great for a spectacular view of the Salt Pond and the distant Point. Steps could lead down to the hard-packed road that connects ramp 44 with the beach.

Correspondence Id: 342 **Comment Id:** 55089

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Air stations should be added to the ramps to facilitate driving with the proper tire pressures both on the sand and on the highway. Correct air pressures leave shallower tracks in the sand and make for safer driving on the road. The pole road should be restored and parking areas should be installed for sound side access. Also, the campgrounds should be serviced, maintained and put back into operation. If that requires pulling the flood gates to drain the woods, then by all means, pull the plug!

Correspondence Id: 1358 **Comment Id:** 55056

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Provide visitor amenities such as parking lots, sanitary facilities, air stations, fish cleaning stations and dumpsters or refuse collection at all ramps and beach access points. Provide a Public Boat Launch Facility at Hatteras Inlet adjacent to the Ferry Channel, similar to those at Oregon and Ocracoke Inlets. Note: The NCDENR has resources and expertise to construct such a facility if the NPSD identifies and approves a suitable site and real estate.

Correspondence Id: 1060 **Comment Id:** 52632

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Also, we would like to see the camper dump station be open year round.

Correspondence Id: 1022 **Comment Id:** 52259

Organization: OBPA, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

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Comment Text: I would like to see more parking areas along Hwy 12 so that those who choose to park and walk on the beaches can find a safe and legal place to leave their vehicles.

Correspondence Id: 401 **Comment Id:** 54799

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: As someone who appreciates and utilizes beach access for a variety of recreation when visiting the Outer Banks, I would like for access to improve, ramps to better maintained, (Especially concerning drainage and being well marked).

Correspondence Id: 269 **Comment Id:** 53246

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The beaches need to be better identified as part of the National Seashore. A better system of signage on Hwy 12 and on beach access ramps needs to be in place.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53170

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 1) Ramps / turnouts etc. currently established appear to be adequate at least as far as I'm concerned. Additional ramps / turnouts as warranted / needed. However, additional ramps/ turnouts must be deemed necessary based upon the need not because of surplus of annual funding that needs to be expensed. At ramp locations the following should be made available: 1) RULES for using the beach for ORV or Pedestrian traffic; 2) dumpsters; 3) air stations (re-fill tires); 4) water; 5) ferry schedule; 6) emergency contact numbers (medical, law enforcement, NPS).

Correspondence Id: 1317 **Comment Id:** 52079

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Reopen Salvo Campground, it should be mowed, new bath rooms and other improvements to make it a campground again. Cape Point Campground should be drained, cleaned up and sanitized, so that it is safe to use. The NPS has improved Coquina Beach, the Canadian Hole and Ocracoke Campground. Why has the Cape Point area been destroyed.

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AC2280 Alternative Concepts: Communication and Outreach

53. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested potential elements for alternatives related to communication and outreach to Seashore users. These elements include handing out flyers at rental companies; using pamphlets and videos for education at various locations; using different user groups as volunteers to assist in education and outreach efforts; continuation of existing communication methods (i.e., email updates); providing education on responsible beach use; additional signage; and establishment of a hotline for users to report violations.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1318 **Comment Id:** 48313
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: A program, such as a flyer handed out by the rental companies to educate user as to safe beach driving and respect for the temporary bird enclosures.

Correspondence Id: 1301 **Comment Id:** 55120
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Education should be carried on with a multi-media approach of pamphlets and video programs at visitor centers, local televisions, rental agencies and parking area bulletin boards to foster responsible use of this park.

Correspondence Id: 2916 **Comment Id:** 55111
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: There are local birders who could be utilized in monitoring birds during the nesting season. Some of those people already help with the summer bird walk program. With a bit of scheduling, perhaps these locals could fill in and help save the NPS from hiring a summer employee.

Correspondence Id: 368 **Comment Id:** 54812
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Educating people on responsible ways to use the beaches and enforcement of the guidelines already in the book have never been implemented to their potential it seems to me. I see it on the beaches in my area as well as the Outer banks. People leave their trash, walk in the dunes, harass wildlife, and this is in

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the public beach areas with no ORV access. I want to see access remain for everyone.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53214

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Communication: Communication will be the most important element of a sound ORV management plan. No plan will work perfectly every day. There will always be a need for unexpected closures or limited restrictions of use based on constantly changing environmental conditions. Effective and timely communication will be integral to the plan's success. I have been very impressed with recent efforts by your department to communicate the condition of the beaches, the need for beach closures, and related announcements when beaches are re-opened. I have received periodic e-mails that give me detailed information on the opening and closing of ramps and beaches. When a beach has been re-opened or closed, the reasons for action being taken has been clearly stated. Your communications in this respect have played a key role in quieting some of the fears and concerns of ORV beach users. In the not too distant past, potential ORV users have been "greeted" with signs posted "overnight". Beaches were closed without warning and with no communication of purpose. Your recent use of E-Mail and other communication procedures have provided an opportunity for all ORV users to plan their access to the beaches. And, this communication has allowed for a more complete understanding of conditions throughout the Park. A sound ORV management plan will provide communication methods that: · Follows guidelines within the plan. · Gives a clear understanding for the purpose of temporary closure, limitation of use, or whatever the restriction may be.

Correspondence Id: 2896 **Comment Id:** 53055

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: more signage would be a good solution along with park service and volunteers to interact with the beach users explaining proper usage of the beach. To implement aggressive policies will drive the public away and create a divide among the user groups, we already have too much division in this country as it is now.

Correspondence Id: 1404 **Comment Id:** 56012

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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Comment Text: We as a group (mobile beach users) are getting through to the individual beach abuser (donut makers, fence crossers, and just plain rude 4x4 drivers, plus the litter's) and the amount of damage they do is decreasing. Many of us (if we are witnesses) to blatant law breaking, would gladly join your Rangers in court to testify, if necessary. Most of us will call and report bad behavior, last spring I called about several Jet Skis romping in the surf neat Hatteras Inlet. To make sure the message is clear, violators should get more than a wrist slap, and stiff fines should be given.

Correspondence Id: 327 **Comment Id:** 55674

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Organized citizen watch groups that can report violations. · Privacy protection for those making such reports. · Hotline number to Park Service to report abuse. · The management plan would have defined penalties that escalate in significance for re-peat offenders. · Park Service communications available to the public on safe ORV use and the protection of our Park's resources.

Correspondence Id: 1400 **Comment Id:** 55657

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I believe perhaps a good approach is the establishment of general guidelines which will require DRV access to the beaches, but providing that access be curtailed (but not completely) to allow for appropriate environmental and wildlife protection. The fine tuning of how much access and where should be left to a volunteer panel comprised of citizens, scientists and government officials so that the balance of access and protection could be varied as conditions require. I would propose that local County Commissioners from Dare and Hyde Counties be allowed to appoint members and that likewise the Park Service appoint members as well.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55485

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Visitor and ORV user Education and Awareness
It is likely that many visitors and ORV users within the Seashore are completely unaware of beach-nesting birds, the habitats they require for nesting and foraging, the importance of these habitats to their survival, the impact of vehicles and human disturbances on these birds, and the impact their actions have on predators. The Seashore has made only a minimal effort to make visitors aware of

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the biology of beach-nesting birds. We urge the Seashore to develop and implement an extensive natural resource awareness program as part of the ORV Management Plan. The Seashore should also distribute this information to all ORV users that access the Seashore beaches.

Correspondence Id: 1342 **Comment Id:** 52060

Organization: OBPA **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Continue to provide timely public updates about closures or other issues that impact use of the beaches; 8. Create & maintain a citizen advisory committee to assist the Seashore in ORV & other policies that impact access and use; 9. Establish & maintain policy to re-open closures of all types & publish them for public education.

Correspondence Id: 1282 **Comment Id:** 51770

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: We need more brochures and/or training at Ramps and other locations which could include tackle shops, grocery stores, restaurants and other "shops" to inform the public using the Recreation Area who may be unfamiliar with the rules or how to drive and enjoy the Area safely. A training video in the Visitors Center. Place a "DO" sign at each Ramp. Example: DO let the air out of the tires; DO pick up trash; DO report any careless/dangerous driving (and post a number). By saying "DO" instead of "DO NOT", it takes the negative word "NOT" out.

54. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that the long-term ORV plan allow for public comment regarding the policy and during implementation of the plan, stating that communication between the park and the public is critical.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 56045

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Methods must be available to allow public comment regarding policy and plan implementation by the Park Service. The public must have methods outlined within the plan to request a change of policy or procedure.

Correspondence Id: 434 **Comment Id:** 52598

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated

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Individual

Comment Text: I am confident that ORV beach access and meaningful conservation of OBX wildlife can coexist because it's been happening for years. Better communication between CHNS staff and the citizens is critical. Make CHNS a model for how park staff and citizens can work together.

55. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters stated that additional outreach should occur though increased ranger patrols and enforcement.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2918 **Comment Id:** 56193

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I recommend that park rules be enforced equally in all areas -- pedestrian and ORV use areas. Enforcement should be achieved by 1. Making routine patrols, 2. Focusing on areas with known problems, 3. Enforcing rules in all areas, pedestrian and ORV use areas, and 4. Prosecuting violators. As I will demonstrate below, the above recommendations will enhance visitor use and experience, provide for visitor safety, and protect park resources. DISCUSSION Enforcement does not have to be and should not be done in a confrontation manner--the mere presence of park rangers is often enough to discourage violations. For example, during the past year the presence of park rangers increased significantly. In high use areas, rangers would often leave their vehicles, stop and chat with visitors, etc., exerting their authority only when necessary. This practice made visitors feel like just that "visitors" while at the same time discouraging potential violators. This practice had a positive impact on visitor use and experience while at the same time providing for visitor safety. Enforcement efforts should focus on areas with known problems.

Correspondence Id: 2909 **Comment Id:** 56042

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: A greater presence of NPS patrol would reduce the number of incidents of non conscientious user violations.

Correspondence Id: 1388 **Comment Id:** 55316

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: No rangers on duty at night we need more ranger personnel need quick response 24/7 from law enforcement Develop 'beach-watch' program need 911 style response.

Correspondence Id: 2803 **Comment Id:** 51692

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Violation is the result of a few bad apples and not the ORV crowd in general. These folks need to be ticketed or arrested as an example to everyone. In Warren Dunes State Park rangers have authority to ticket and arrest violators on the spot. They patrol the beaches and trails on ATV's which allows them to cover the 1700 acre park on a regular basis. The rangers carry a pad of tickets and a side-arm and generally no one challenges their authority. A similar approach should work along Cape Hatteras. Volunteer nest watchers have worked in many areas. A group of volunteers from the local area might help the nesting success of some of these rare birds. Also, a regular beach clean-up might deter some of the predators such as raccoons.

56. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested potential elements for alternatives related increasing ORV access at the Seashore. These elements included reopening historical ramps; open the maximum amount of beach to account for an increase in ORV use; reopening existing closures; restoration of the Pole Road; restoration of historical ORV routes; establishment of alternative routes during high tide; looking at ORV access in front of villages; and considering access on areas of Pea Island.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1377 **Comment Id:** 42329

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Reopening of historical ramps. Many of these ramps were closed "temporarily" never to reopen.

Correspondence Id: 1369 **Comment Id:** 51805

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: In the quest for easier access of the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Park and Recreational Area, attached are a few points that should be considered: 1) With the increase of the amount of SUV's, it would behoove that the maximum amount of beach should be opened so that they not concentrated in one area. This would mean that closures would need to be kept to a minimum and when done they need to be reviewed in a timely manner. 2) Any "symbolic " fences should be marked with a highly visible colored string and not just the standard white string. 3) To

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help the Rangers to do their job, a cell phone needs to be made available to the Rangers on patrol so that the public may contact them through a base number and email to accept pictures; this would help to report any problems or violations that may crop up. This would include the notification of time and date at the time of the violation, picture of the person or vehicle in the act (Cell phones have the capability of taking and sending pictures), and where possible showing the license plate. 3) The use of blockages on the access ramps, if by chain or cable, to be clearly marked with a plastic pipe that is clearly visible through the use of reflective paint or tape. 4) The width of the beaches to be measured at the average high tide water mark so that an average person would know how it was measured. "Safety closures" should be evaluated daily by the Rangers on their daily patrol. So that they do not need to go back to the office, plastic signs should be carried in the patrol vehicle along with plastic trail markers to mark the temporary closures. (In the state of NJ, on a daily bases, the safety is determined by the beach driver using common sense. Normally, at some spots the beach has been as narrow as 20 feet above the high tide watermark; this measurement does not include the base of the sand dune. During extreme conditions the Park Rangers make the decision.). 5) The use of training film on how to drive on the beach to be made available on both the internet and park offices. (This type of film is already available in NJ at the Island Beach State Park.) Driving classes are also available through the NJBBA. Why not ask if the NCBBA could offer the same service on a set schedule.

Correspondence Id: 390 **Comment Id:** 52949

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I disagree with anymore closures and I am not happy with the existing closures. If we are negotiating closures I want the existing closures open to access. All the Northern Beaches that are closed, the areas around Cape Point, and all the Southern Beaches. You are dealing with a side that will not be happy until there is no access. At what point does your organization stand up to the group that wants our beaches closed to ORV access and say, we have given you enough.

Correspondence Id: 342 **Comment Id:** 55088

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I see no room for compromise on this issue! There was a time when 75 miles of beach were open to the mobile surf fisherman. The available beach is now down to less than half

that amount! Pea Island is closed and sound side access south of Hatteras Village is virtually non-existent! The NPS campgrounds are closed and Cape Woods is dead from an influx of saltwater. Not a very pretty picture. Personally, I feel that the trend toward additional closures has to end. All the beach ramps should be opened and maintained to make access and travel on the beach easier. The pole road should be restored and parking areas should be installed for sound side access.

Correspondence Id: 387 **Comment Id:** 56335

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I suggest the following: Many more miles of beach opened to OVR use

Correspondence Id: 2918 **Comment Id:** 56191

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: recommend that the park 1. Evaluate all sound side roads from Buxton north and perform any necessary maintenance, and 2. Re-open the three sound side roads that existed on the Pole Road prior to Hurricane Isabel. With respect to neglected sound side roads, I recommend that the park perform the maintenance needed to restore the northern sound side roads. With respect the nine closed sound side roads, three of these roads were located on the Pole Road. These sound side roads were extremely popular for family activities such as wading, clamming, scalloping, and picnicking. Furthermore, these sound side roads provided the only sound side access between the Buxton sound side road and the Cable Crossing Road at Hatteras Inlet. This being the case, it is incumbent upon the park to re-open the sound side roads along the Pole Road.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55274

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see the removal of restricted areas such as "Bird Resting Areas". These areas are overly restrictive and usually get over washed at high tides, which make nesting prohibitive anyway. I understand that some small enclosures are beneficial so long as they do not prohibit access from one access Ramp to another.

Correspondence Id: 1081 **Comment Id:** 55272

Organization: OBPA, CHAC, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Some areas such as the Point (Buxton) and Oregon Inlet have restrictive access at times of high tide. I would like to see alternative access routes to get to these areas such as additional interdunal paths, and that they remain accessible and usable.

Correspondence Id: 391 **Comment Id:** 55249

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There is no access, year round, to the beaches in the villages. Again, walk over only which puts anyone with more than a beach chair at a disadvantage. . . Please consider these as part of the entire park when considering 'beach miles' or beach area.

Correspondence Id: 391 **Comment Id:** 55232

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Pea Island. This area has been pedestrian access only with no night access (except with special permit) for as long as I have been enjoying the park. I have never seen this part of the beach due to this lack of access. It is difficult for an older individual to carry the necessary supplies over the dunes and onto the beach. When my wife and friends join us, it is impossible for us to access this area. It would be nice to have parts of this area be considered for vehicle access so all would be able to enjoy.

Correspondence Id: 1358 **Comment Id:** 55055

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Establish as basic policy that ALL park lands and beaches will be open to ALL users by ANY means of access unless actual, valid safety or resource management conditions exist to justify temporary closure, and any such closures shall be of the minimum practical extent and duration. Manage all park lands so as to encourage dispersion of user density instead of concentrating users on less and less area. Emphasize multiple uses as a management principle. Restore Pole Road to pre-Hurricane Isabel condition to provide the historic and traditional public access to Hatteras Inlet beach and sound front in accordance with the sustained public demand for that access. Reduce or eliminate the recent practice of pre-emptive or anticipatory resource closures in the vicinity of Cape point and the 3 Inlets, which effectively deny reasonable public access to particularly popular and appropriate recreational resource areas in contravention of Congressional

intent. Reopen traditional access to all beaches on Ocracoke Island to ALL means of access to aid in dispersion of user density.

Correspondence Id: 1375 **Comment Id:** 42527

Organization: NCBBA charter member, OBPA **Organization**

Type: Individual

Comment Text: 2. What is wrong with filling in the holes and reopening the road near the dunes that ran from Cape Point Campground 2 or 3 miles towards ramp 49? This is way inland of any bird activity I have ever witnessed. 3. Consider a temporary ramp of two in the area from 23 to 34 if extensive bird closures close to the current ramps effectively close off usable beach beyond the closure.

AC2320 Alternative Concepts: Support Increase ORV Access

57. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters voiced support for increasing ORV access at the Seashore.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1377 **Comment Id:** 42335

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Moreover it is time to reverse the closures of the past and reopen areas previously open to ORV use.

Correspondence Id: 1406 **Comment Id:** 55310

Organization: Water Sports Industry Association **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Accordingly, our position as representatives of the watersports- user group is pro-OR V access, and our interest is to be recognized as a vital stakeholder to maintain and improve access for watersports users in locations within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence Id: 2926 **Comment Id:** 54534

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I look forward to exposing my grandchildren to their heritage of access to the OBX. Your help in preserving and expanding this wonderful part of North Carolina would be greatly appreciated.

Correspondence Id: 384 **Comment Id:** 54159

Organization: UMS **Organization Type:** Individual

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Comment Text: I support responsible access by ORVs to the beach. I support expanding access rather than decreasing it.

Correspondence Id: 269 **Comment Id:** 53243

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Beach area open to vehicular traffic should be expanded, not reduced. Reductions of area open to travel will only concentrate vehicles and limit recreational opportunities.

AC4000 Alternative Concepts: New Concepts or Elements of Concepts

58. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that the alternatives for the long-term ORV management plan include improved pedestrian access and additional parking areas to facilitate pedestrian access.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 207 **Comment Id:** 539642

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I feel if ORV access is to be significantly curtailed serious consideration should be given to providing improved beach pedestrian access--more and larger parking areas near existing ramps--additional parking areas along route 12 with walkovers to beach will be needed--a very large area would be needed at Ramp 49 in Frisco to provide adequate access to the beach---Without these improvements many park visitors would not be able to enjoy the Park to its fullest.

Correspondence Id: 1317 **Comment Id:** 52080

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The salt pond situation needs to be addressed, so that the birds will use it again. The pole road should be rebuilt, with accesses to the sound and beach every 500 yds. There should be small parking areas at each of the sound accesses. How can you enjoy the sound if you cannot get to it.

Correspondence Id: 2812 **Comment Id:** 52271

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Public driving on the beach should not be allowed. However, public access to the beach at appropriate locations should be provided.

Correspondence Id: 431 **Comment Id:** 53252

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 6. Pedestrian corridors Consideration should be given to increased pedestrian corridors in the villages so that the closure signs are not posted at the site of the last property line. Pedestrians should be allowed to enjoy beachcombing areas adjacent to dunes and free of motor vehicle traffic to enjoy the solitude and natural beauty of the National Seashore. There thus needs to be pedestrian buffer zones of at least 1 mile adjacent to the villages.

59. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that the alternatives for the long-term ORV management plan include elements that address increased enforcement of regulations and how to address violations. Commenters offered the following suggestions: publicizing violations in a local publication; and higher penalties for violations; increase law enforcement presence.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1375 **Comment Id:** 42528

Organization: NCBBA charter member,OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: 5.Publicize all summons and court cases involving beach violations. The "New Jersey Wildlife" magazine used to report violations monthly. It must have been daunting to Dr. so and so, or even John Public to see his name listed for fishing-no license or two trout over limit.

Correspondence Id: 1318 **Comment Id:** 48311

Organization: OBPA,NCBBA,CHAC **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: More law enforcement officers on the beach to ensure violators are caught and prosecuted.

Correspondence Id: 1243 **Comment Id:** 51842

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Stiffen the penalties for those that do damage to our parks.

Correspondence Id: 1342 **Comment Id:** 52059

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Increase LE ranger presence on the beach;

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Correspondence Id: 468 **Comment Id:** 52993

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 2 Break law - make fine reflect seriousness of crime - Large fine 1 or 2000\$ - revoke fishing license for a meaningful period of time - 1 + years.

Correspondence Id: 1022 **Comment Id:** 52257

Organization: OBPA, NCBBA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see a greater presence from the rangers actually on the beach and not just giving speeding tickets on Hwy 12. There are other agencies to handle that duty. We need these guys on the beach.

Correspondence Id: 1230 **Comment Id:** 52198

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: More enforcement for those who break the law. I see this more in the summer than at any other time and it's usually young drivers that need to be schooled on the "do's and don'ts".

Correspondence Id: 441 **Comment Id:** 55242

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I realize a few bad apples can, unfortunately, be the bane of all of us. Perhaps seriously stiff penalties for infractions would curtail most of that, especially once word got out. Also, limiting surf fishing tournaments both in number and number of participants might ease traffic some.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53225

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Park Service Enforcement: Unfortunately, there are citizens that refuse to follow the rules. Law enforcement within the park will be a critical part of a successful ORV plan. The plan must identify areas of abuse and regulation violation and provide for proper penalties. For example: · Speed enforcement. · Use of non-licensed vehicle. · Damage to dunes by vehicle or pedestrian. · Illegal access to beach (not by designated ramp). · Allowing pets off leash. · Obvious reckless driving. · Repeat offenders will be given more significant penalties. A public access telephone number to the Park to report offenders should be implemented.

60. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested that the alternatives for the long-term ORV management plan include measures for the protection of listed species. These measures included identifying nesting areas and closing them to vehicle traffic; what species should be protected; use of fencing to protect species; establishment of conservation zones; banning fireworks; allow for independent verification of nests; and establishment of a species monitoring program.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2803 **Comment Id:** 51691

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The areas of the beach that have nesting birds such as piping plovers or least terns obviously need to be closed to vehicle traffic. Areas of open beaches that have nest areas roped off need the proper buffer so the birds won't abandon nests or young. These rules need to be consistently enforced.

Correspondence Id: 1282 **Comment Id:** 51765

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: To clarify the above paragraph, "endangered species" means just that. If the species is NOT on the endangered list, then the beach should NOT be closed for access. The closures should only occur WHEN the species arrives, NOT in anticipation of the arrival. As for the tourist season, that would be May 15th through September 15th. We should have unlimited access from September 16th through May 14th annually.

Correspondence Id: 2838 **Comment Id:** 52551

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please put the fences back up to protect the nesting grounds when appropriate and or post signs and ticket people who disregard them.

Correspondence Id: 2798 **Comment Id:** 52528

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Some easy things to implement under your Habitat Conservation plan could be to stop driving at sunset, make a "conservation zone" (30 ft from the top of all dunes) where people can't drive, and mark clearly all sea turtle nests, so they don't get run over.

Correspondence Id: 2800 **Comment Id:** 52459

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Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Fireworks- should not be allowed during the nesting season.

Correspondence Id: 2869 **Comment Id:** 52159

Organization: North Carolina Beach Buggy Association

Organization Type: Individual

Comment Text: Allow for independent verification of nests, etc w/ NPS personal if requested.

Correspondence Id: 2924 **Comment Id:** 56076

Organization: Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina

Organization Type: Individual

Comment Text: All access should be allowed only at designated ramps. The major habitat for the threatened birds can be protected above the ORV driving line with a reasonable distance around their nests, ideally, identified as off limits to ORVs. As well, turtle nests should be clearly marked with access around them visibly identified.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55479

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: The Seashore should implement a monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of the ORV Management Plan and the impact of the ORV Management Plan on all beach-nesting bird species and other resources in the Seashore.

61. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters requested elements for an ORV management plan that address vehicle access and routes, and where vehicles should be able to be used at the Seashore. These elements included increasing soundside access; establishment of buffer zones around dunes; the use of alternative routes during closures; use of minimum restrictions for ORVs; use of the "100-foot rule"; and use of interdunal roads.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43600

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: There should be a minimum of 20 additional sound access roads with parking lots established on the west side of Highway 12 along the entire CHNSRA.

Correspondence Id: 1369 **Comment Id:** 51806

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 6) One thing should be noted that there have been a number of beach studies that state even where there is beach erosion from ORV's, there is no substantial yearly difference between natural and impacted beaches except just in front of the dunes. This is where a buffer zone at the dune base should be established. I recommend this to be eight feet on the ocean side when the high water mark is not at the base of the dune.

Correspondence Id: 1346 **Comment Id:** 52022

Organization: Cape Hatteras Angler's Club & OBPA

Organization Type: Individual

Comment Text: A drive-around/pole road or "interior trails" should be constructed and maintained in order to ensure access to Cape Point, south beach and False Point during high tide/full moon situations.

Correspondence Id: 471 **Comment Id:** 54476

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I also wish to urge the adoption of a policy that will establish the minimum restrictions necessary on ORV use at Cape Hatteras, to meet valid environmental concerns.

Correspondence Id: 431 **Comment Id:** 53254

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 8. 100 foot rule The Interim management plan held that if the distance from mean high tide to the dune line is less than 100 feet, than this area of beach is too narrow and constitutes a safety closure. Superintendent order #7 in 2006 as per Mr. Murray removed this provision. Consideration needs to be given to reinstatement of this rule in the interest of pedestrian safety. Pedestrians and ORVs in a narrow corridor threaten the safety of the 90% of park visitors who access the beach by foot.

Correspondence Id: 1282 **Comment Id:** 51769

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would like to see inter-duneal passage ways where land mass permits. This would allow safe passage by ORV's should the oceanfront be closed for ANY reason.

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62. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that the long-term ORV plan include provisions for habitat creation or modification, as well as the relocation of species to other areas and the use of hatcheries for sea turtles.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43603

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Upon observations of nesting turtles, these nests should be marked. Once egg laying is over, the eggs dug up and relocated to the Pea Island NWR beaches. There are NO lights in this area that could cause confusion in the young turtles. This could considerably increase the numbers of juvenile turtles reaching the surf.

Correspondence Id: 1233 **Comment Id:** 52481

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Why does the park service not study how habitat can be modified to provide for protection and recreation? The past practice has been to close off areas, which promotes plant growth. This expands the areas that are not suitable bird habitat and forces the birds to compete with humans. At the same time this policy expands the suitable habitat for predators, which the NPS spends a good amount of money to trap and kill. A case in point is the large pond at Cape Point. Many long time residents remember that it used to be a large nesting and breeding area when the vegetation was not allowed to grow right up to the shoreline. I have been told that the Audubon Society has raised this concern in the past and received no interest from the park service. Since the park service has allowed the large wooded area on Cape Point to be flooded by salt water killing off the vegetation, why not use this area to create the proper bird habitat? The area has no human presence so there is no loss of access for the public and could provide a model of creative thinking and a wonderful place for bird watchers.

Correspondence Id: 1022 **Comment Id:** 52258

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I would also like to see the pond at the point decreased in size somewhat so that more appropriate habitat for the plovers can be allowed to return.

Correspondence Id: 2849 **Comment Id:** 52207

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 1) Turtle hatchery program: retrieve eggs, hatch, and release. This obviously will reduce predation 2) Enlarge nesting areas for bird nesting by mechanical means i.e. disk & harrow 3) 2' mesh fence to keep chicks from wandering 4) Intensive predator control: Haphazard attempts will not be successful. A trapper should be engaged and predators reduced to low numbers (forget the ghost crabs)

Correspondence Id: 213 **Comment Id:** 53124

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: since vehicles are not authorized on Pea Island, would it be feasible to trap some of the endangered birds from the areas which have vehicular traffic and transfer them to Pea Island or other restricted beaches?

Correspondence Id: 340 **Comment Id:** 55715

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Regarding wildlife habitat, I think NPS should go back to developing habitat as they did in the past by removing vegetation from areas on the beach where driving has been prohibited and the area allowed to grow in vegetation thus reducing desirable bird habitat. Another area of concern is the pond area near Ramp 44. This area should be drained when necessary as in the past to prevent the standing water on the access roads we experience today. Such draining would also increase habitat for some wildlife. In addition this is a water quality issue potentially affecting the health of residents. This same philosophy should apply to all ramp accesses prone to flooding like Ramp 49.

Correspondence Id: 1362 **Comment Id:** 43604

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: When plovers are observed nesting and laying eggs, these eggs should be collected, incubated, hatched, fledged and released into the wild. This will decrease the amount of predation by 100%, and from personal experience - I KNOW fledging programs such as this, do in fact, and increase the overall populations of threatened or endangered species.

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63. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that an element of the long-term ORV plan address predators and their impact on the Seashore's species. Commenters requested that predators are not eliminated selectively, that avian predators are considered, and that predator food sources be considered.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1246 **Comment Id:** 51836
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: DO NOT eliminate predators selectively.

Correspondence Id: 2855 **Comment Id:** 51819
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Please consider perching opportunities for avian predators when posting near a shorebird nesting colony. Monomoy NWR, Chatham MA alleviated a Great Horned Owl problem by switching to a triangle sign for postings. If investing in more signs it might be more cost effective to request signs in that shape up front to prevent potential avian predators a perching opportunity.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53217
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Predator Control Program: The Threatened and Endangered species and species of special concern within the Park must be protected from predators. It has been my experience that man is not a chronic problem here. Significant adverse consequences to T & E species are typically caused by: · Weather (High tides, Storm surges from Hurricanes, etc.) · Other wildlife (Foxes, opossums, raccoons, etc.) · And, perhaps the worst? Feral cats? Solve this problem on Hatteras Island and you may save some of the threatened and endangered species! The ORV plan must: · Identify the T & E species. · Identify natural predators of the T & E species. · And, provide methods to control the predators.

Correspondence Id: 2904 **Comment Id:** 56236
Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Comment Text: Reduce predator food sources by removing fish cleaning stations and dumpsters to interior areas away from the beach.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55484
Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:**

Individual

Comment Text: It is important for the Seashore to fully understand the impact of predators, especially non-native predators, on the nesting success of waterbirds and shorebirds within the Seashore. We feel, based on observations at nesting sites and reports from researchers working in the Seashore, that removal of non-native predators at nesting sites is warranted. We also recommend that the Seashore take action to reduce predator feeding stations by securing fish cleaning areas and garbage collection areas, and prohibit the feeding of predators by visitors.

64. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested elements for the long-term ORV plan that address requirements for vehicles and drivers on the beach. Suggestions included speed limits, no digging holes, restrictions on certain activities such as kiteboards and balloons, requirements for trash removal, the types of vehicles allowed at the Seashore, and safety requirements.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1317 **Comment Id:** 52803

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: A 20 mph speed limit be posted and enforced. No digging holes over 12 inches deep, except to unstick vehicles. then the area should be restored. No kite or balloons with those little ribbons, ask the stores not to sell them.

Correspondence Id: 1341 **Comment Id:** 52061

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: To require all visitors to clean up after themselves is imperative

Correspondence Id: 413 **Comment Id:** 52808

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I do make 1 request: I used take 1 ATV for me and the wife, but the new law says we must each ride our own separate ATV. The new ATV rules have increased the number, or size, of vehicles needed on the barrier islands unnecessarily. Please use the farm and harvest rules as before.

Correspondence Id: 2874 **Comment Id:** 52094

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated

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Individual

Comment Text: Safety measures, such as speed limits, properly licensed vehicles and the prohibition of reckless operation of a motor vehicle are appropriate components of the ORV Management Plan. An extensive user education program is also an appropriate component of the ORV Plan - as is encouraging the self-policing and prompt reporting of violators to the proper authorities.

Correspondence Id: 454 **Comment Id:** 54999

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: In addition to drive on the beach there is a list of requirements that your car must have to be on the beach.

Correspondence Id: 258 **Comment Id:** 53223

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Miscellaneous Elements of ORV Management Plan · Vehicle Safety Requirements-Any state licensed four-wheel drive vehicle should be allowed access. Current postings (at ramps) of tire pressure are adequate notice for safety precautions. Requiring the use of certain off road equipment such as chains, shovels, etc should not be required. · The ORV plan should allow night driving. · Speed limits of 15 MPH should be enforced. A 20-25MPH speed limit is simply too much speed and is not needed. · Designated ORV routes should be provided from Highway 12 to the beach or sound. Once over the ramp, the ORV user should be directed away from existing dunes. Once on the beach, the ORV user should be free to use the entire beach with the obvious need of protecting the dunes as is now done by sign postings. · Specified corridor widths on the beach should not be a part of the plan. · The Park service must be present on our beaches with routine patrols and available for assistance when requested. · The ORV plan would have no vehicle permit requirement. · The ORV plan would not have vehicle unit limitations. Everyone is welcomed to enjoy the beach following a few simple rules. · Given the significant and constantly changing environment within the Park, the ORV management plan must be flexible to be successful. · Methods must be available to allow public comment regarding policy and plan implementation by the Park Service. The public must have methods outlined within the plan to request a change of policy or procedure. · The ramp system now in place within the Park is very good. I envision a plan that would build on the current system, using the access areas that are already in place. · Pets should be

allowed on the beaches. The pets must be leashed, using a normal retractable leash or similar device.

65. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that the long-term ORV plan include elements regarding alternative transportation such as electric and/or non polluting shuttles and use of over sand vehicles (OSVs).

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1236 **Comment Id:** 52567

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Another element to be considered is the use of alternative transportation to sensitive barrier island habitats such as beaches and spits. Small and medium sized vessels off shore might be contracted for near shore fishing to limit human impacts to the beach habitat during endangered species breeding and germination seasons, (Electric?) Beach bus routes running on planned interior areas might also limit visitor impacts to these sensitive habitats and yet allow for limited surf fishing (and take away a possible negative comment such as "they've kicked us off the beach!"). Increased marketing for the use of habitats on the west side of Route 12 could do its part on limiting beach impacts due to human activity that is stressful for breeding and germination. Each of these suggestions has a high possibility of being contracted to allow for replacement revenues for those habitat-damaging ORV activities that would be eliminated by Plan actions.

Correspondence Id: 204 **Comment Id:** 52990

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Close the parks to ORV use, particularly in sensitive nesting areas. As a compromise for access, create limited transport with a well-regulated concession using quiet, nonpolluting transports that would take fishermen and their gear to fishing spots and stop the unregulated access that has so compromised these areas.

Correspondence Id: 1316 **Comment Id:** 52090

Organization: Delaware Mobile Surf-Fishermen, Inc. **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: In today's world of constantly rising costs, there will be those who wish to see access fees established for OSV use. Given, the history of shoreline use in the Outer Banks and the opposition of local stakeholders, DMS feels imposition of such fees would not be appropriate to this rule making.

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66. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that Cape Hatteras National Seashore look to other areas that have similar issues to create alternatives for the long-term ORV plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1168 **Comment Id:** 52454

Organization: Howard County Bird Club **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: We believe Assateague should be considered a model for regulation of ORVs at Cape Hatteras. Three elements of the Assateague program would help at Hatteras: the limitation on numbers, the use of permits, and the balance between open and closed areas.

Correspondence Id: 2879 **Comment Id:** 53000

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Virtually every other national seashore on the East Coast issues permits, sets limits on times, places and numbers of off-road vehicles. Most ban night driving, which seriously impacts nesting sea turtles and shorebirds? And most of these areas protect suitable nesting habitat at the start of the breeding season, so birds and sea turtles can nest without disturbance.

Correspondence Id: 2794 **Comment Id:** 51681

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I ask that you apply to Cape Hatteras National Seashore the same or more stringent protections and restrictions applied to other East Coast national seashore areas.

67. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested that the use of fees, taxes, or licenses could be a component of the long-term ORV plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 275 **Comment Id:** 56023

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: *Fees for ORV driving permits (equitable to the associated cost of maintaining ORV use in the seashore). One possibility is a year round permit and week permit options.

Correspondence Id: 380 **Comment Id:** 55665

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Its time to change to every one having to by a use license if you entire our parks for any reason you pay a yearly license fee same as the sportsman's lessee its time for them to pay there way and help keep the resources up until now was the job of the sportsman,

Correspondence Id: 3536 **Comment Id:** 55630

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Although others would disagree, I wouldn't mind paying an "off road tax" of some sort to help with federal maintenance, or perhaps include cape Hatteras seashore in the golden park passport system ?? I would not want ORV to be the ONLY ones paying this tax.

Correspondence Id: 338 **Comment Id:** 54762

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I do not agree with restricting 100% access to the beach areas. Please consider some of the following suggestions; * Restricted off-limit areas * Rotation of use areas * Preplanned Management Procedures for the Park Service * Access Fees that provide direct funding and support for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence Id: 428 **Comment Id:** 54178

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Put a gate at Buxton and charge a fee if necessary

68. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested different ways that closures could be implemented, including providing alternate access around closures, removal of closures as soon as possible, allowing rangers to determine when closures should be removed, and how safety closures should be established.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1368 **Comment Id:** 52009

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I also believe that if any popular recreational area absolutely needs to be closed for temporary reasons that every effort should be made to allow access around the closed areas.

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Superintendent Murray did manage the beaches in 2006 within the confines of the regs. and policy both for the protection of the birds & turtles AND for the access of the visiting public. Last year the Park Service did make a good attempt to keep us up to date as to the closures, the reasons for the closures, attempted to mitigate some of the closures by providing access around the sensitive areas to unaffected areas and opened the areas when the biological reason were no longer in effect.

Correspondence Id: 1343 **Comment Id:** 52042

Organization: NCBBA, OPBA, RFA & CHAC **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Establish a policy for the timely reopening of beach closures regardless of the reason for closure. Give the Park Rangers patrolling those areas the authority to reopen safety closures once conditions improve.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53172

Organization: NCBBA / OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: 3) Safety closures should be based upon experienced NPS personnel determining that due to circumstances (wind, hurricane other natural event) the beach is not safe to traverse, (to close to water, to close to dunes, potential of harming resource because of the lack of room. However, re-evaluating the closed area(s) should be undertaken in a timely manner. Upon this re-evaluation, the area in question is opened or remains closed pending the next re-evaluation.

Correspondence Id: 188 **Comment Id:** 53165

Organization: NCBBA / OBPA **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: ORV as well as pedestrian access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should be based on common sense and not emotion. If an area is deemed unsafe by NPS, then ORV (maybe even pedestrian usage) should be curtailed until such time as deemed safe by NPS personnel.

69. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters suggested elements that could be incorporated into the long-term ORV plan including making the Seashore state managed, prohibiting vehicle traffic in front of dwellings, and prohibiting net fishing.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 433 **Comment Id:** 55105

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: The answer is making this a North Carolina State Beach, not Federal.

Correspondence Id: 1393 **Comment Id:** 54771

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: All vehicle traffic should be prohibited on the beach adjacent to dwellings.

Correspondence Id: 837 **Comment Id:** 53910

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: If your serious and want to protect our shores then focus on stopping large netting and any type of dragging within a 1/2 mile of our shores by anyone. It is down right wrong for such activities taking place near our shores and in our tributaries.

70. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters noted the value of the Seashore in providing habitat for threatened and endangered species, and also noted the decline in these species in recent years.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1356 **Comment Id:** 42466

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: On the other hand, the national seashore is critical nesting habitat for species like Piping Plover, Least Tern, Sandwich Tern and Loggerhead Sea Turtles.

Correspondence Id: 2864 **Comment Id:** 54815

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: 2006 showed miserable stats for Cape Hatteras' National Seashore. There was only one successful piping Plover pair, Oystercatcher pairs had dropped by 50% in a decade, and not one Gull-billed Tern chick was hatched. That is abysmal productivity for a 70 mile long barrier beach!

Correspondence Id: 1402 **Comment Id:** 53882

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Areas such as Pea Island, Cape Point and the flats near Oregon Inlet provide unique habitats for wintering ducks and for such species of concern as piping plover, American oystercatcher and common tern. We must come up with a plan that preserves this habitat, while addressing legitimate concerns of the fishers.

Correspondence Id: 242 **Comment Id:** 52583

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: I implore you to do all in your power to protect nesting shorebirds in the jurisdictions under your management. When populations of piping plovers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore are reduced to 5 pairs and American Oystercatchers to 24 pairs we cannot ignore the causes any longer! And no nesting terns or skimmers are left!

71. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters provided what they felt were the current threats to protected species at the Seashore, including ORV use, predators, and weather conditions. Some commenters noted lack of history of ORV and species conflicts.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 3076 **Comment Id:** 54530

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Please do a better job at protecting Cape Hatteras Shoreline from ATV's and other vehicles which have been destroying the nesting grounds for sea turtles.

Correspondence Id: 274 **Comment Id:** 53308

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: ORVs appear to rule the beaches on the outer banks. As a result, our breeding shorebirds are severely declining due to ORV impact (i.e., chicks getting run over by ORVs) and other nesting disturbances (i.e., people feeding seagulls firecrackers and whatnot). Please regulate ORV usage!

Correspondence Id: 2924 **Comment Id:** 56075

Organization: Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Virtually all ORVs operate within several feet of the high tide line. In many years of using the recreation area, there have been very few, if any, incidents of ORV traffic injuring nesting birds or turtles.

Correspondence Id: 341 **Comment Id:** 56069

Organization: Nature Conservancy **Organization Type:**
Individual

Comment Text: As many have noted, predation is the major cause of piping plover mortality relative to fledglings on this beach.

Correspondence Id: 1404 **Comment Id:** 56013

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated
Individual

Comment Text: The main culprit that keeps birds like the Piping Plover from making a comeback on the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore is Mother Nature. She's a cruel mother, with regular Nor' Easters & hurricanes overwhelming almost all the beaches in the . Park, eggs & fledglings stand poor chances of survival. There is nothing any man can do to prevent nature's wrath.

AE11000 Affected Environment: Species of Special Concern

72. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters noted the value of the Seashore in providing habitat for species of special concern, and also noted the decline in these species in recent years. Some felt that too much beach was being closed for such low rates of reproduction.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 1356 **Comment Id:** 42467

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated
Individual

Comment Text: Even species like Common Tern, Black Skimmer and Wilson's Plover are in steep decline in NC.

Correspondence Id: 1297 **Comment Id:** 51665

Organization: Defenders of Wildlife **Organization Type:**
Individual

Comment Text: For nearly 30 years, the National Park Service has not kept pace with the increasing ORV use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. These beaches are critical nesting grounds for endangered sea turtles and threatened piping plovers. They are also a vital habitat and food source for countless shorebirds.

Correspondence Id: 284 **Comment Id:** 52628

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated
Individual

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Comment Text: The numbers of birds that nest at Hatteras (like the beautiful American Oystercatcher) has declined sharply the past few years.

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55459

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: Protection for American Oystercatchers The American Oystercatcher is listed as a "Species of High Concern" in the US Shorebird Conservation Plan (Brown et al. 2001). Primary threats to this species are habitat loss, human disturbance, and predation by non-native predators and species closely associated with human activity (Schulte et al. 2006). Human disturbance has been implicated as a significant contributor to low reproductive success and high predation rates in studies conducted in North Carolina and Georgia (McGowan 2004, Davis et al. 2001, Sabine 2005, Sabine et al. 2005, Simons 2004). Davis et al. (2001) also found that oystercatchers avoid nesting in areas with high human disturbance and McGowan (2004) found that the presence of vehicles on beaches contributed to higher predation rates.

Correspondence Id: 320 **Comment Id:** 53155

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: Having lived near the Bogue Sound area a lot I have watched the decline of shore birds, Piping Plovers (endangered), Oyster Catchers, and Black Skimmers to such an extent that when I see one it gives me real pleasure. The way things are presently going I do not expect to see many of the above mentioned birds within the next decade.

Correspondence Id: 1339 **Comment Id:** 51688

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: To much beach closed for birds that have not a good record of reproduction

73. CONCERN STATEMENT:

Commenters provided what they felt were the current threats to species of special concern at the Seashore, including ORV use, predation, habitat loss, and general human disturbance.

Representative Quote(s):

Correspondence Id: 2912 **Comment Id:** 55435

Organization: Audubon North Carolina **Organization Type:** Individual

Comment Text: The Seashore has experienced significant declines in breeding pairs of shorebirds and colonial waterbirds in the past 10 to 15 years. The reasons for these declines are evident and can be categorized into three primary causes: human disturbance, predation, and habitat loss. The primary contributors to population declines are anthropogenic in origin.

Correspondence Id: 326 **Comment Id:** 55171

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: ORV's cause undue pressures on colonial nesting waterbirds, shorebirds and other wildlife, including nesting sea turtles.

Correspondence Id: 2833 **Comment Id:** 56330

Organization: Not Specified **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Comment Text: As you know, human activity is one of the most disruptive activities that trouble bird nesting and ultimately leads to declining populations. I have been disturbed to read about the damage that ORV activity has had in your National Seashore.

AE12000 Affected Environment: Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

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